
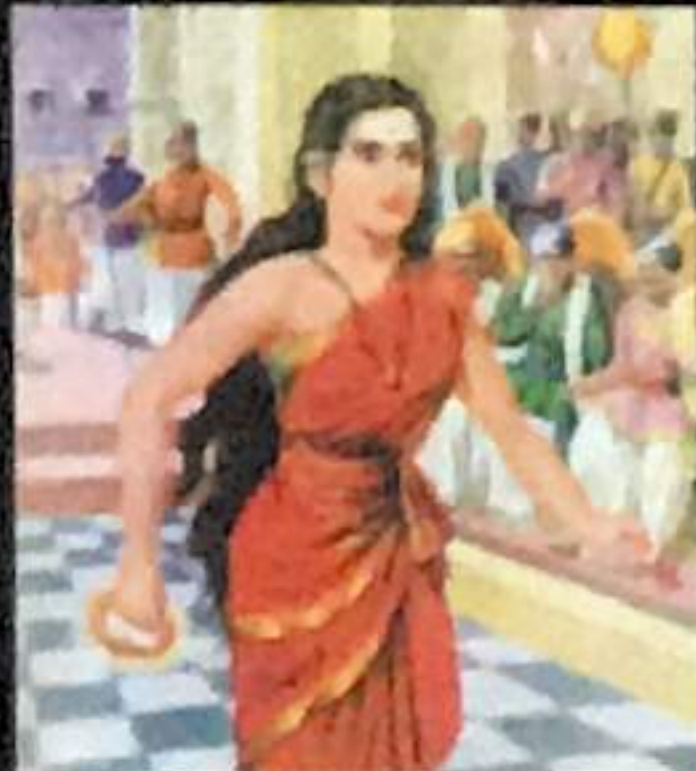



DEVI CHOUDHURANI

Prafulla's future promised only doom and sorrow. Gossiping neighbours and an unhappy marriage would have ruined many women, but Prafulla was not one to give in easily. With hard work and good sense, she turned her life around. An attractive heroine in Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel, Prafulla rose from poverty to a life of riches and fame.


OTHER ACK INDIAN CLASSICS:

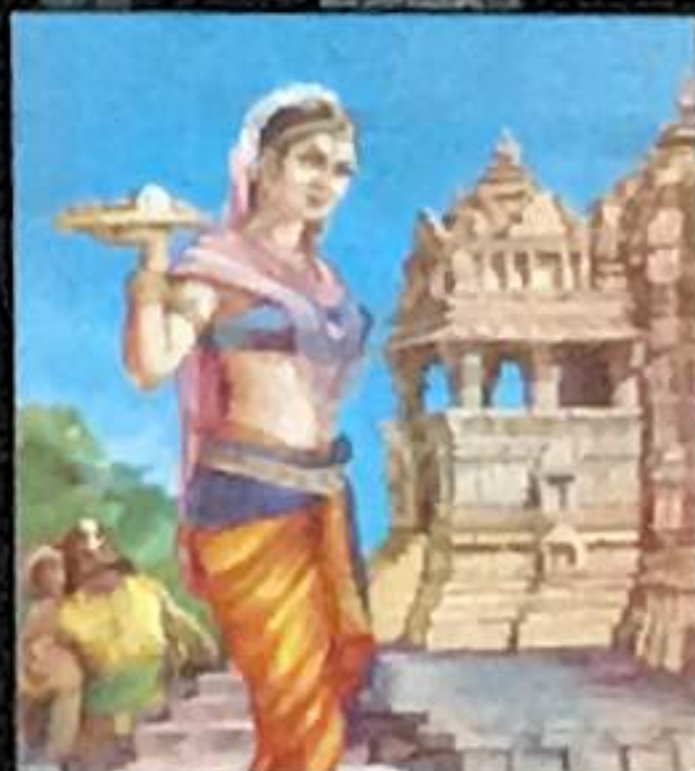
 **KANNAGI**




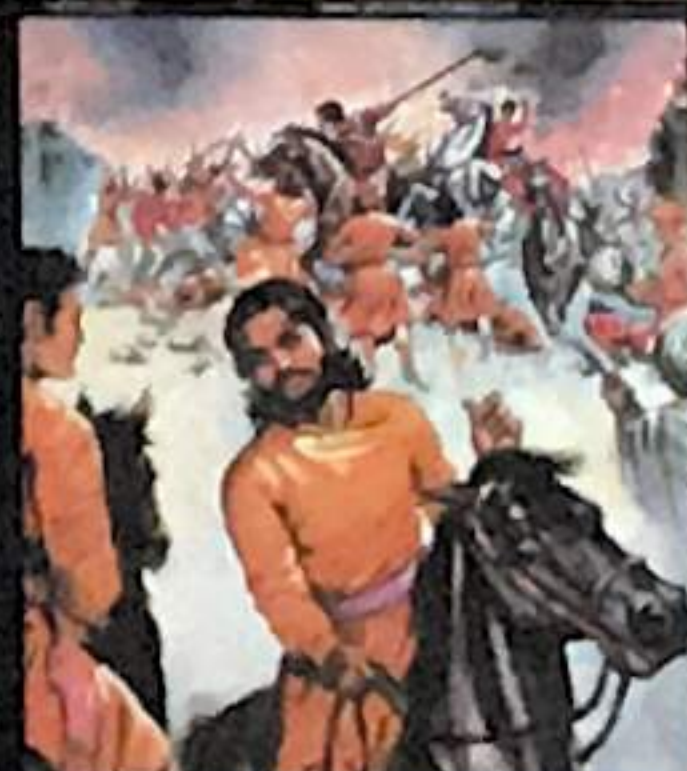
 **KAPALA KUNDALA**




 **VASANTASENA**



 **ANANDA MATH**




ALSO LOOK FOR:

 **BHEESHMA**




EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

 **LACHIT
BARPHUKAN**



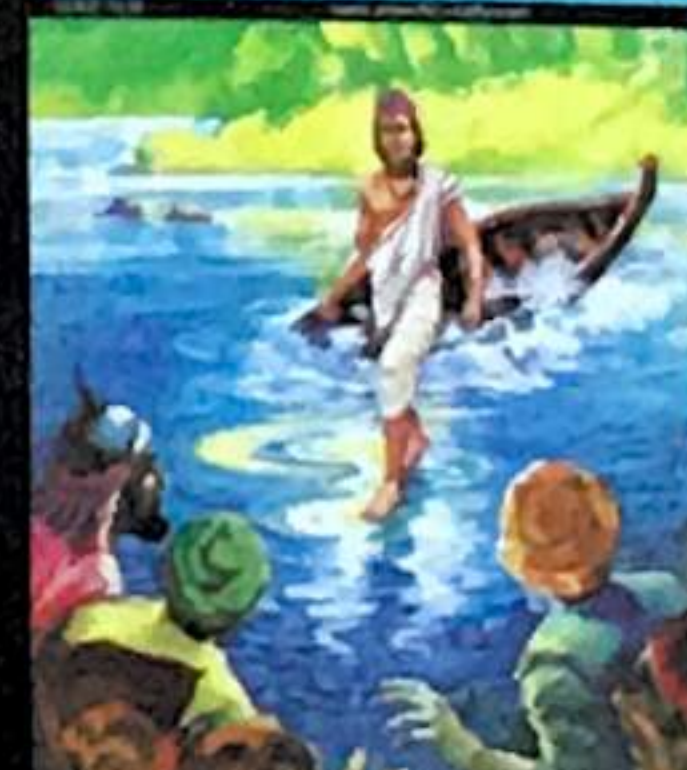
BRAVEHEARTS

 **FRIENDS
AND FOES**



FABLES & HUMOUR

 **KABIR**



VISIONARIES

Buy online at www.amarchitrakatha.com

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

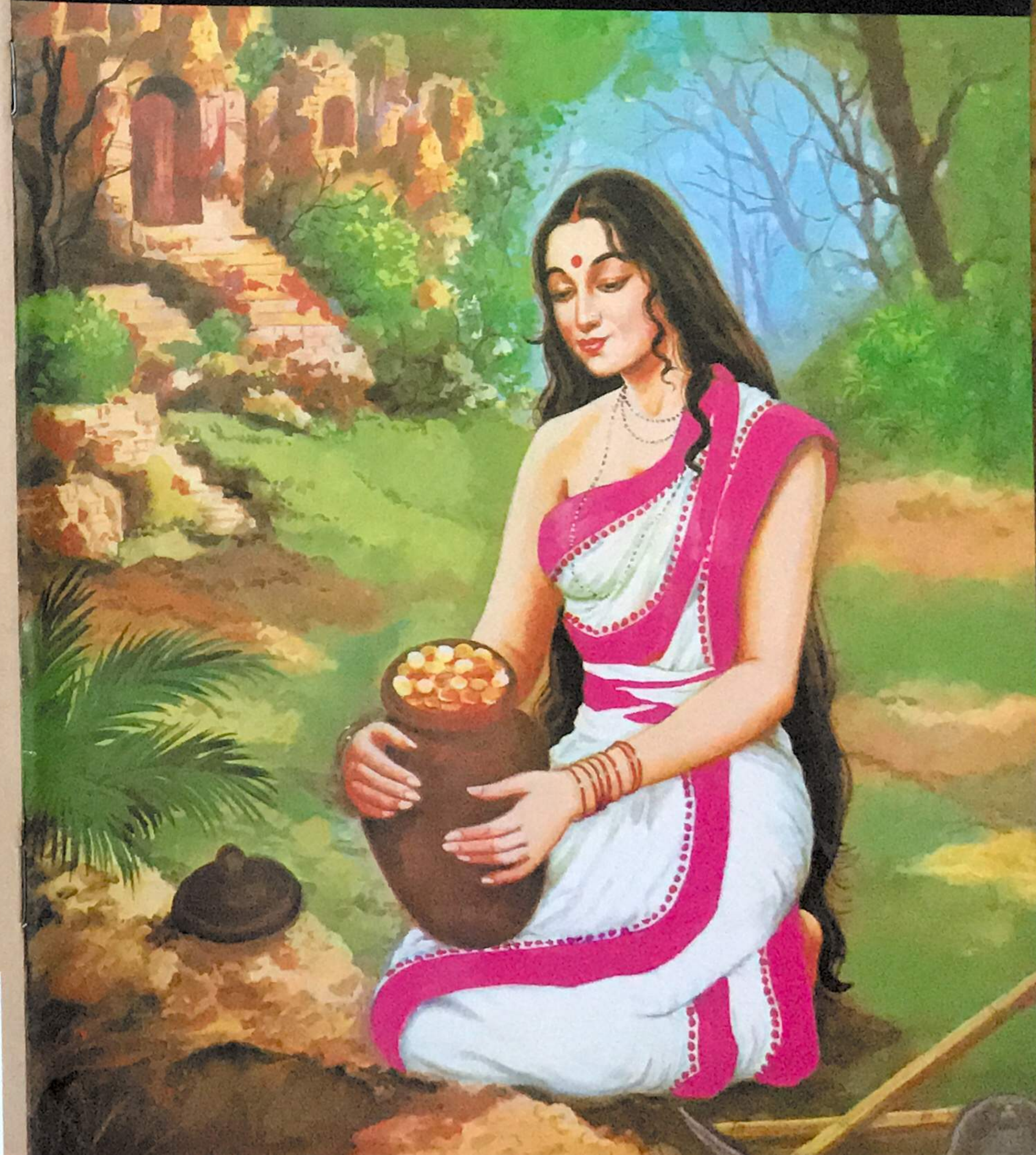
INDIAN
CLASSICS



DEVI CHOUDHURANI

THE BANDIT QUEEN

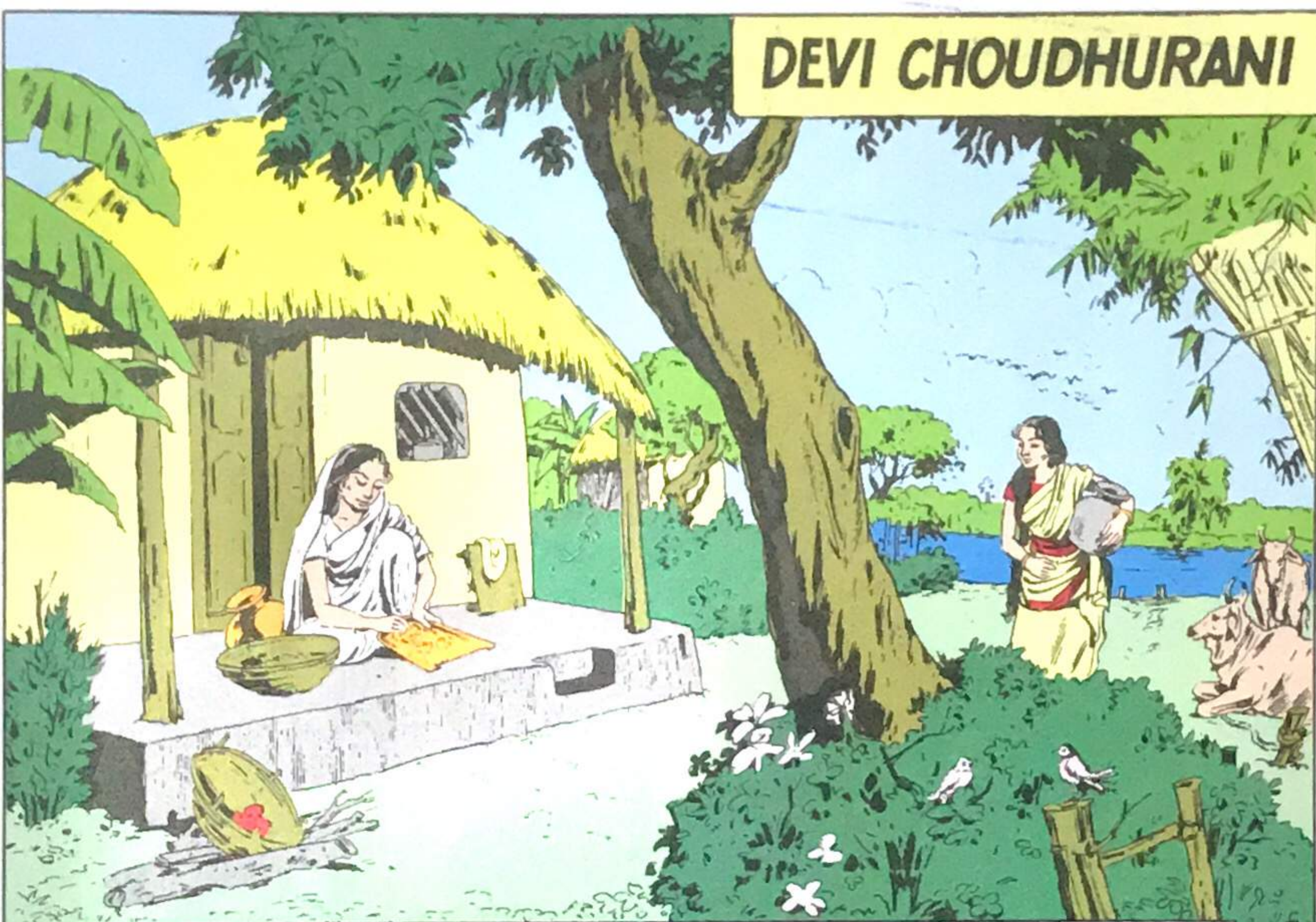
Vol 659 | ₹50



ISBN 81-8482-007-0



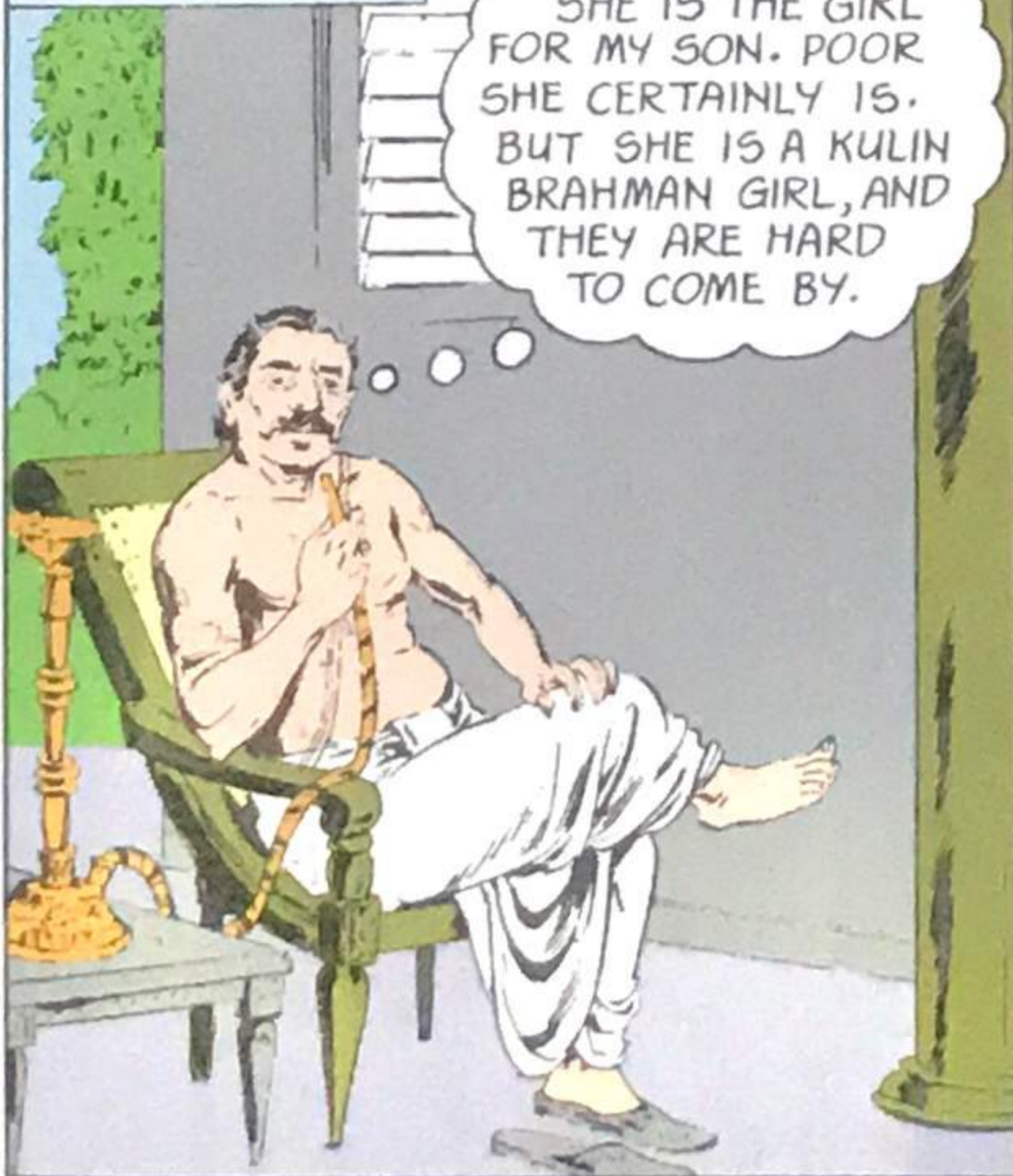
9 788184 820072



IN DURGAPUR, A SMALL VILLAGE OF NORTH BENGAL, THERE LIVED A POOR BRAHMAN WIDOW WITH HER BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, PRAFULLA.

FAME OF PRAFULLA'S BEAUTY REACHED THE EARS OF HARABALLABH, THE ZAMINDAR OF BHUTHNATH.

SHE IS THE GIRL FOR MY SON. POOR SHE CERTAINLY IS. BUT SHE IS A KULIN BRAHMAN GIRL, AND THEY ARE HARD TO COME BY.



AND HE WENT TO SEE PRAFULLA'S MOTHER.

I WISH TO MARRY MY ONLY CHILD BRAJESHWAR TO YOUR DAUGHTER.

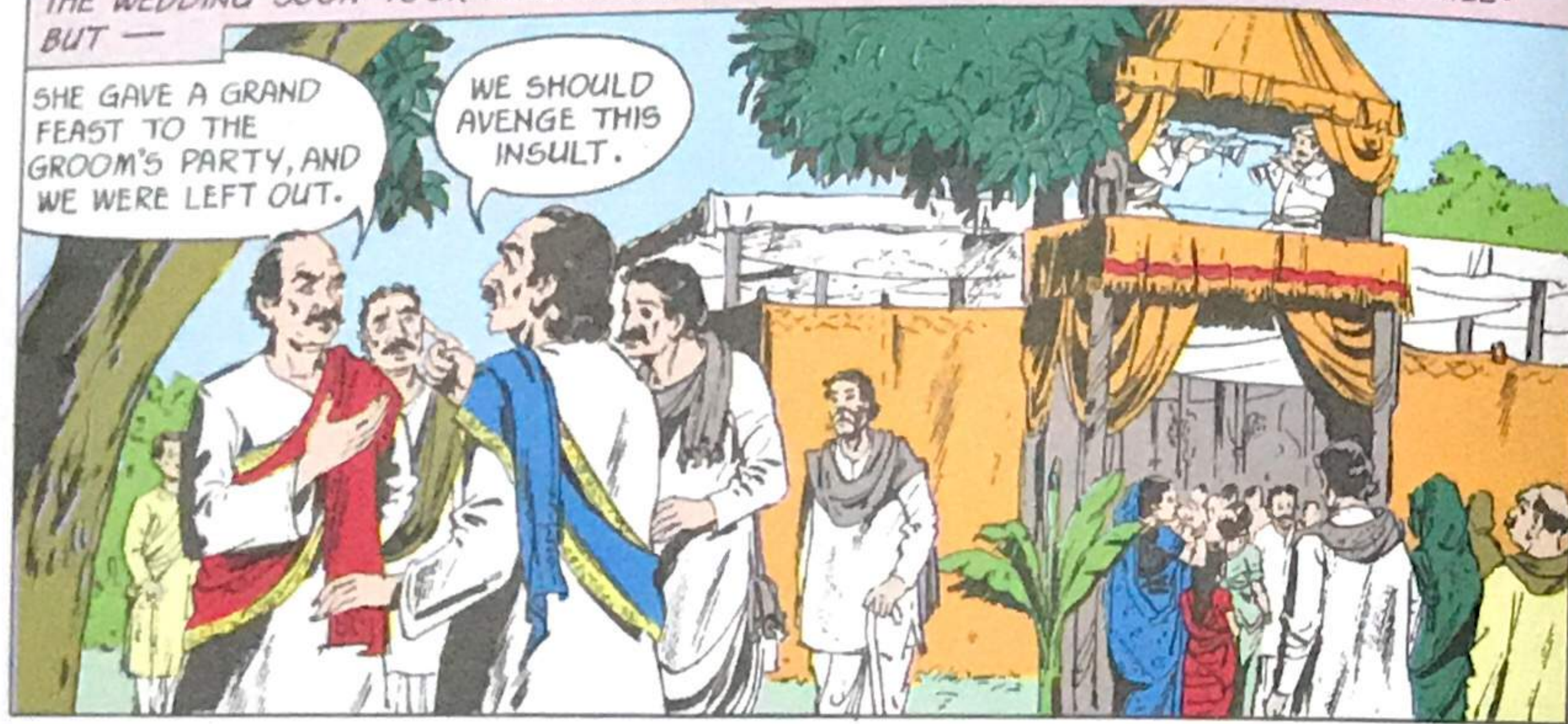
I AM HONOURED, SIR.



THE WEDDING SOON TOOK PLACE. PRAFULLA'S MOTHER DID HER BEST TO PLEASE ALL. BUT —

SHE GAVE A GRAND FEAST TO THE GROOM'S PARTY, AND WE WERE LEFT OUT.

WE SHOULD AVENGE THIS INSULT.



TWO DAYS LATER, THE ENVIOUS NEIGHBOURS MET HARABALLABH AT HIS HOUSE.

SIR! PRAFULLA'S MOTHER HAS NO CHARACTER. IF ONLY YOU HAD CONSULTED US...

I SEE...



ANGRY AND AGITATED, HARABALLABH WENT TO HIS WIFE AND TOLD HER EVERYTHING.

SEND PRAFULLA BACK TO HER MOTHER. AND SHE NEED NOT RETURN.

BUT WHY? JUST BECAUSE OF SOME VILLAGE GOSSIP?

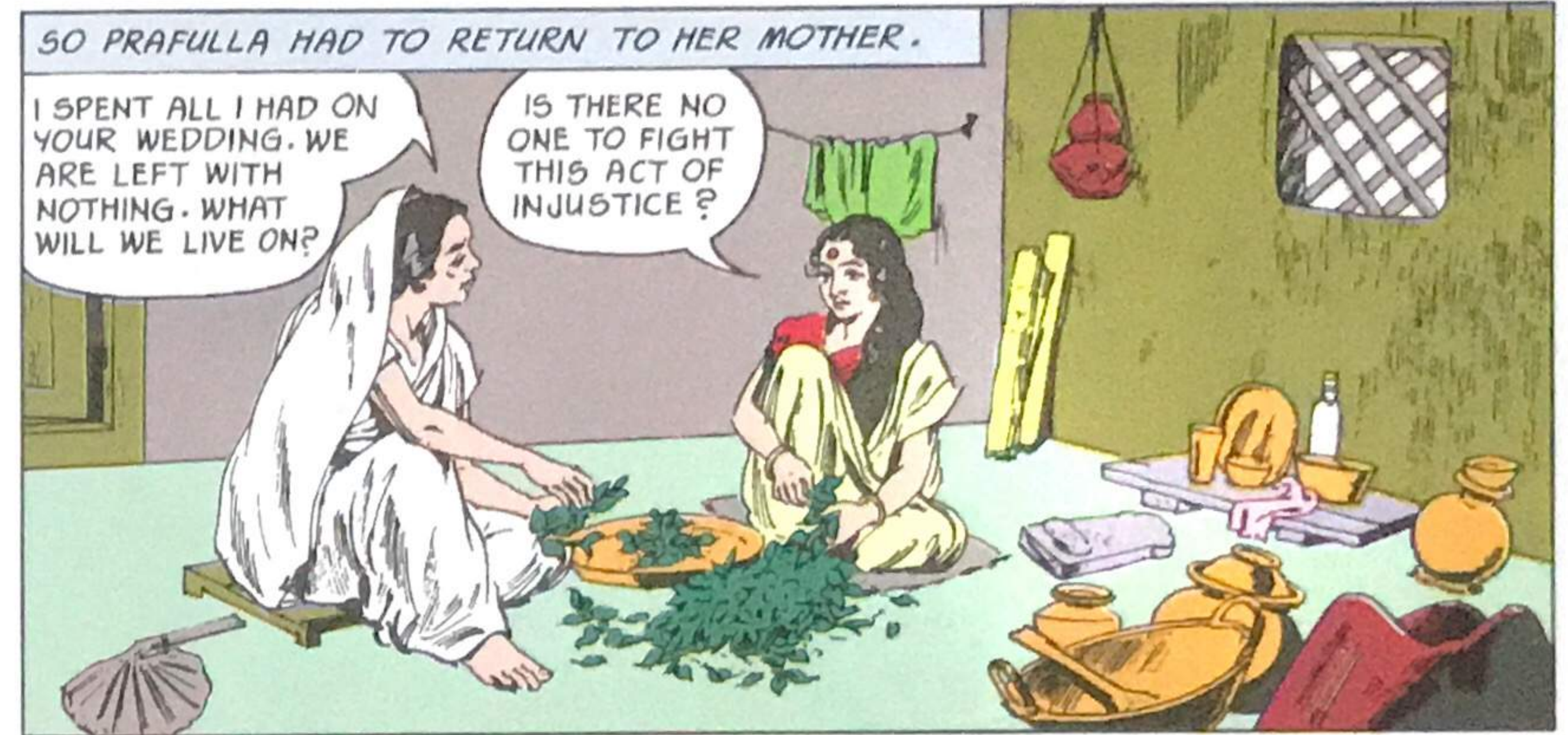
THERE CAN BE NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE.



SO PRAFULLA HAD TO RETURN TO HER MOTHER.

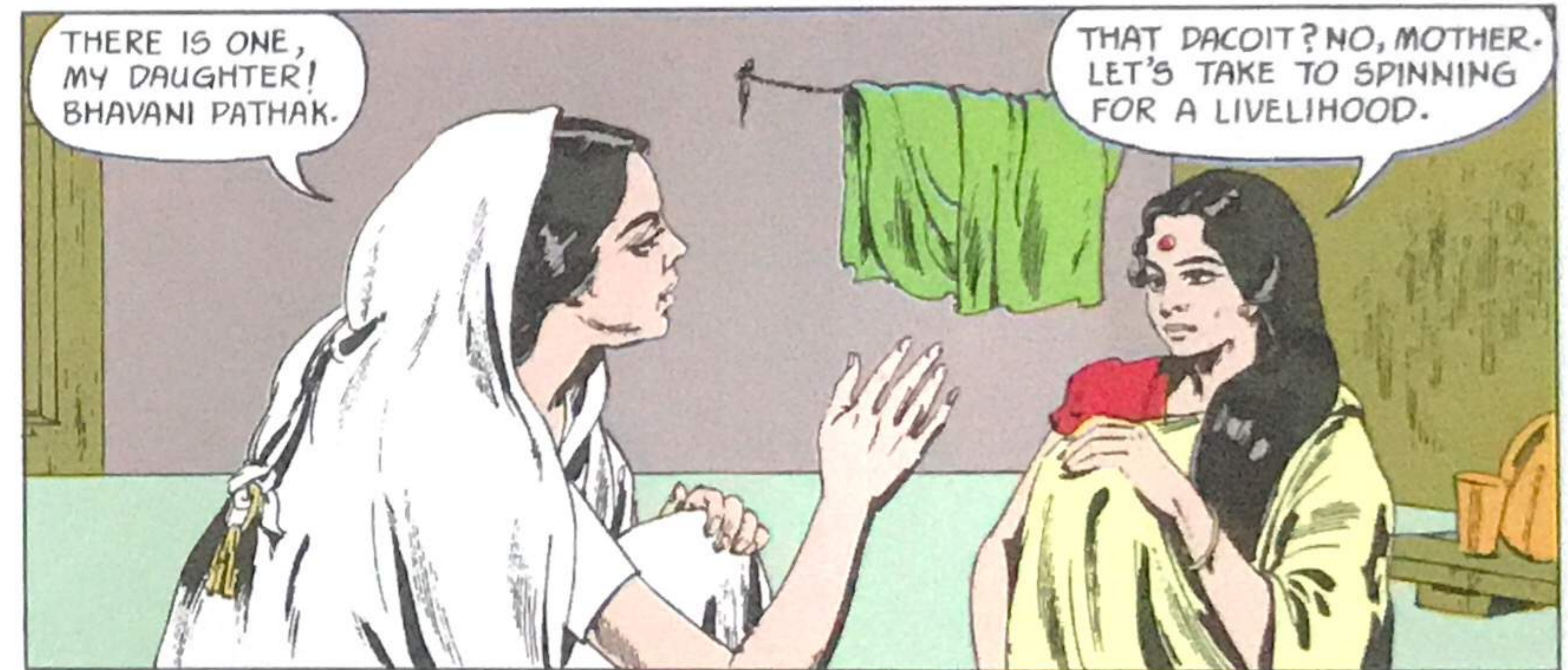
I SPENT ALL I HAD ON YOUR WEDDING. WE ARE LEFT WITH NOTHING. WHAT WILL WE LIVE ON?

IS THERE NO ONE TO FIGHT THIS ACT OF INJUSTICE?



THERE IS ONE, MY DAUGHTER! BHAVANI PATHAK.

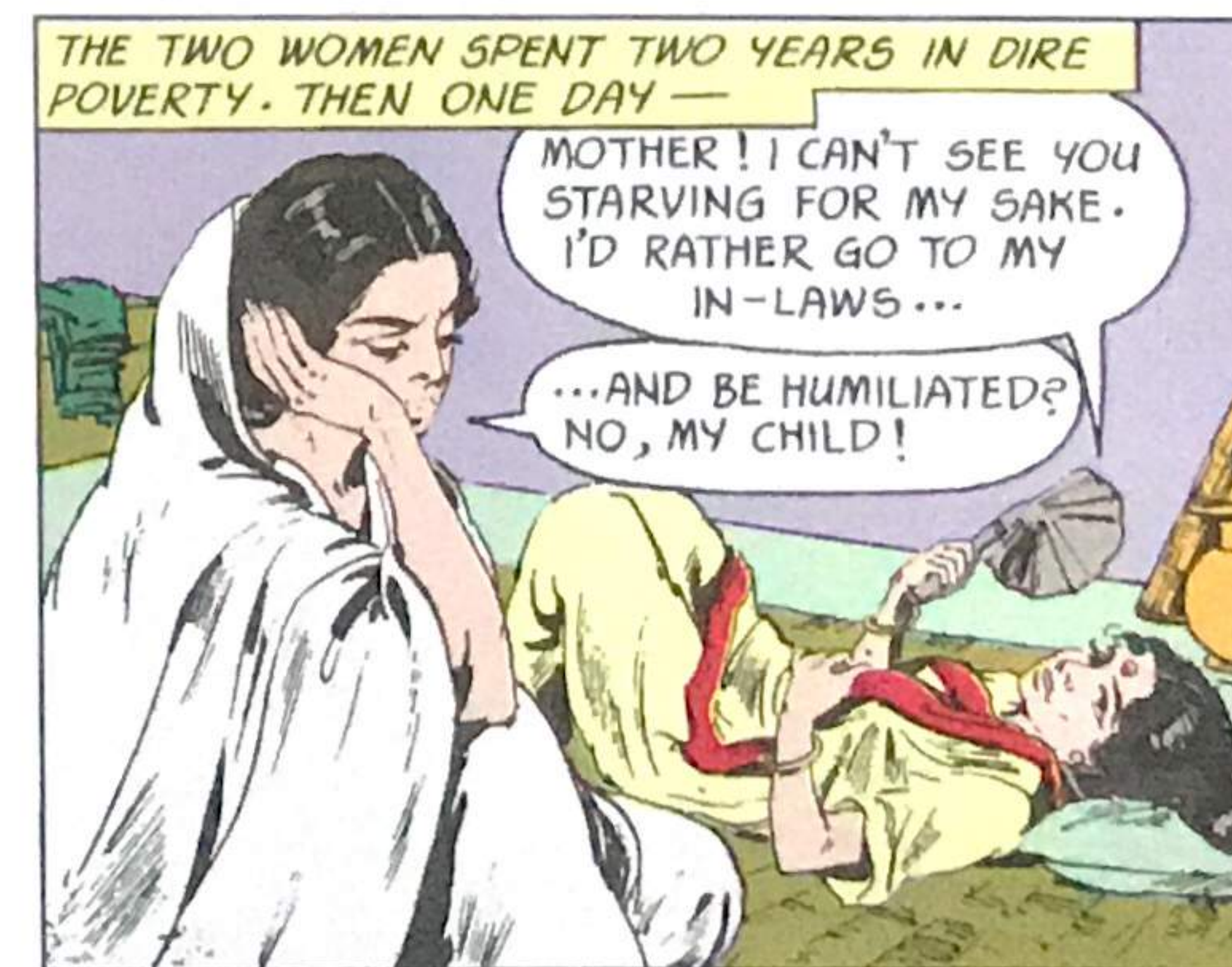
THAT DACOIT? NO, MOTHER. LET'S TAKE TO SPINNING FOR A LIVELIHOOD.



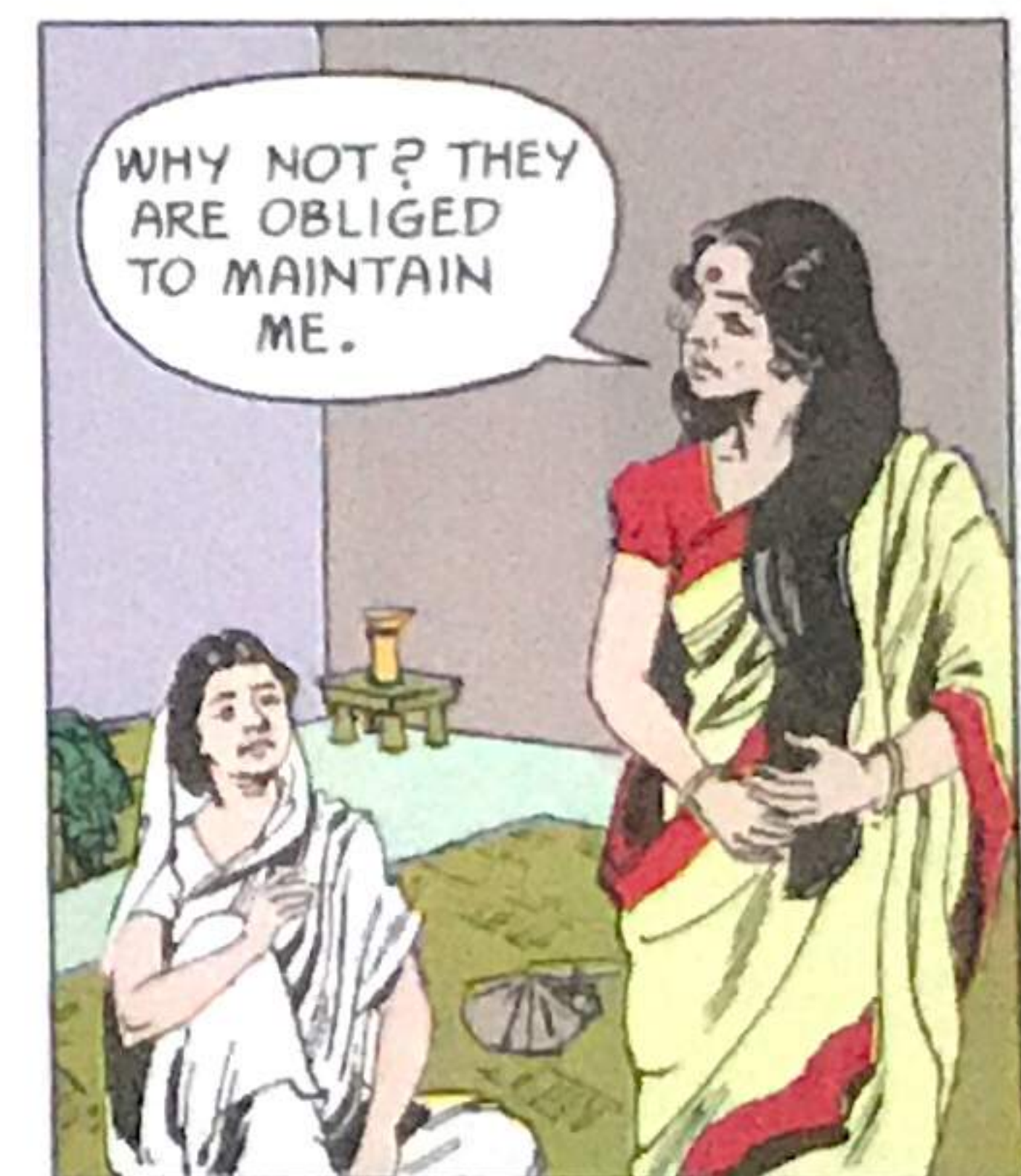
THE TWO WOMEN SPENT TWO YEARS IN DIRE POVERTY. THEN ONE DAY —

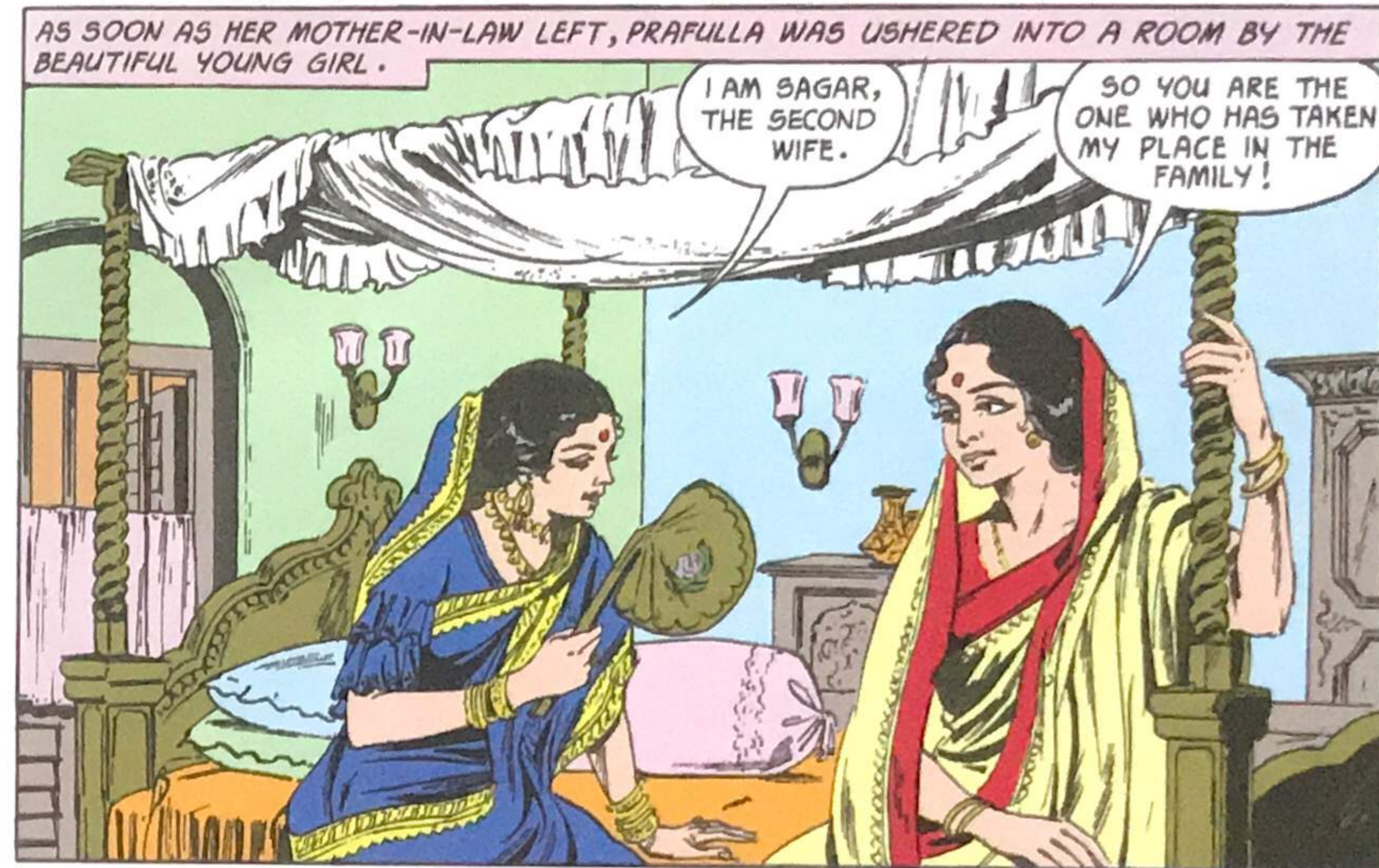
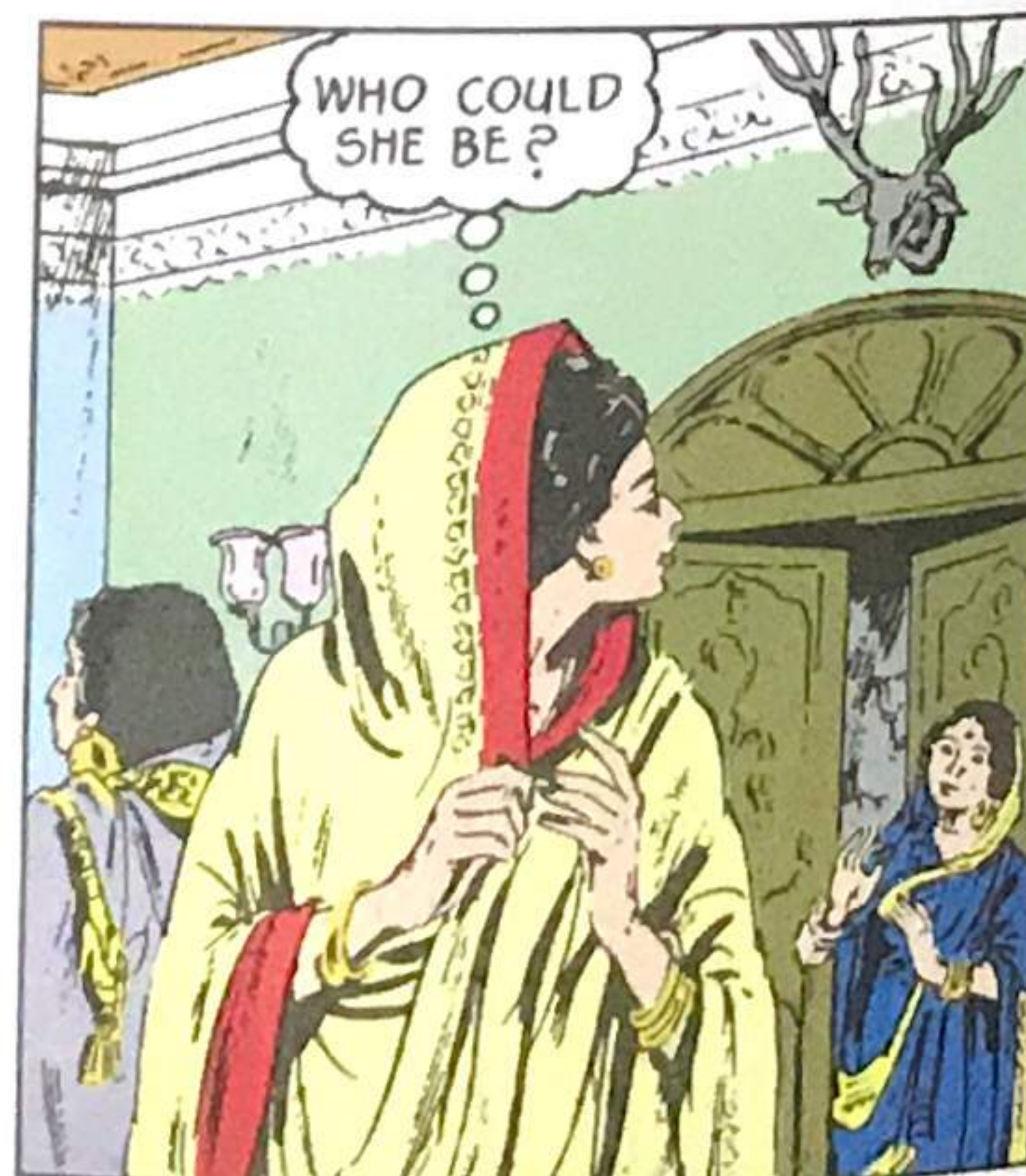
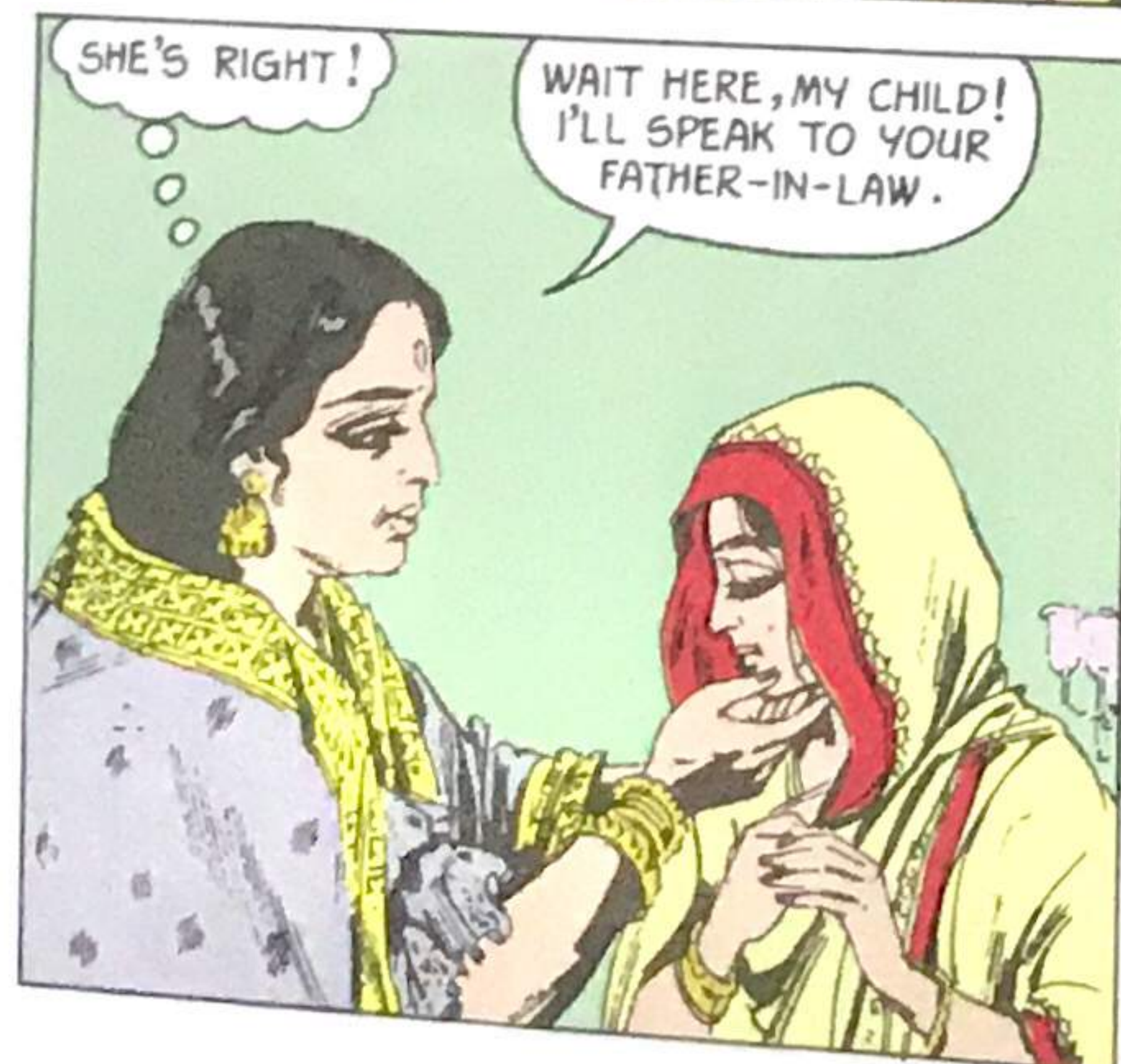
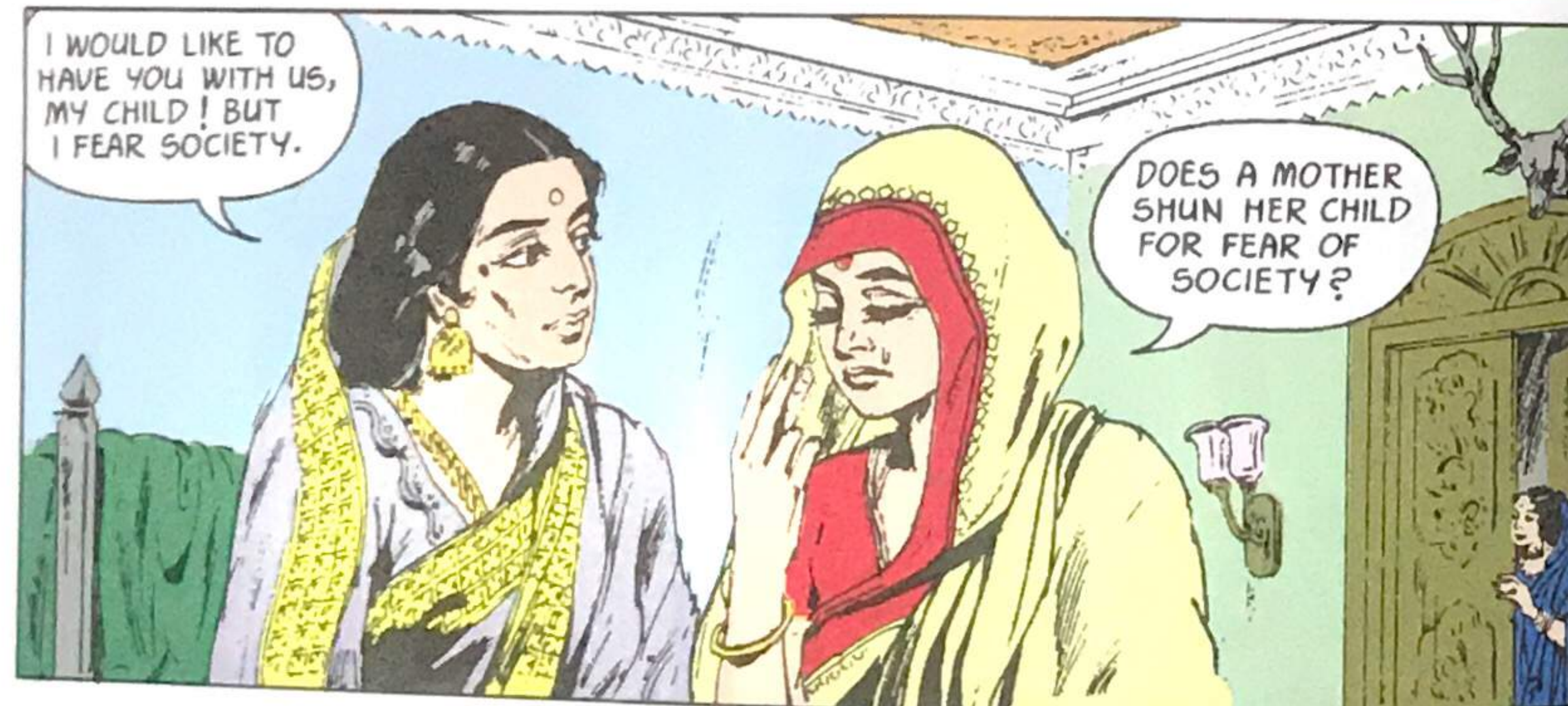
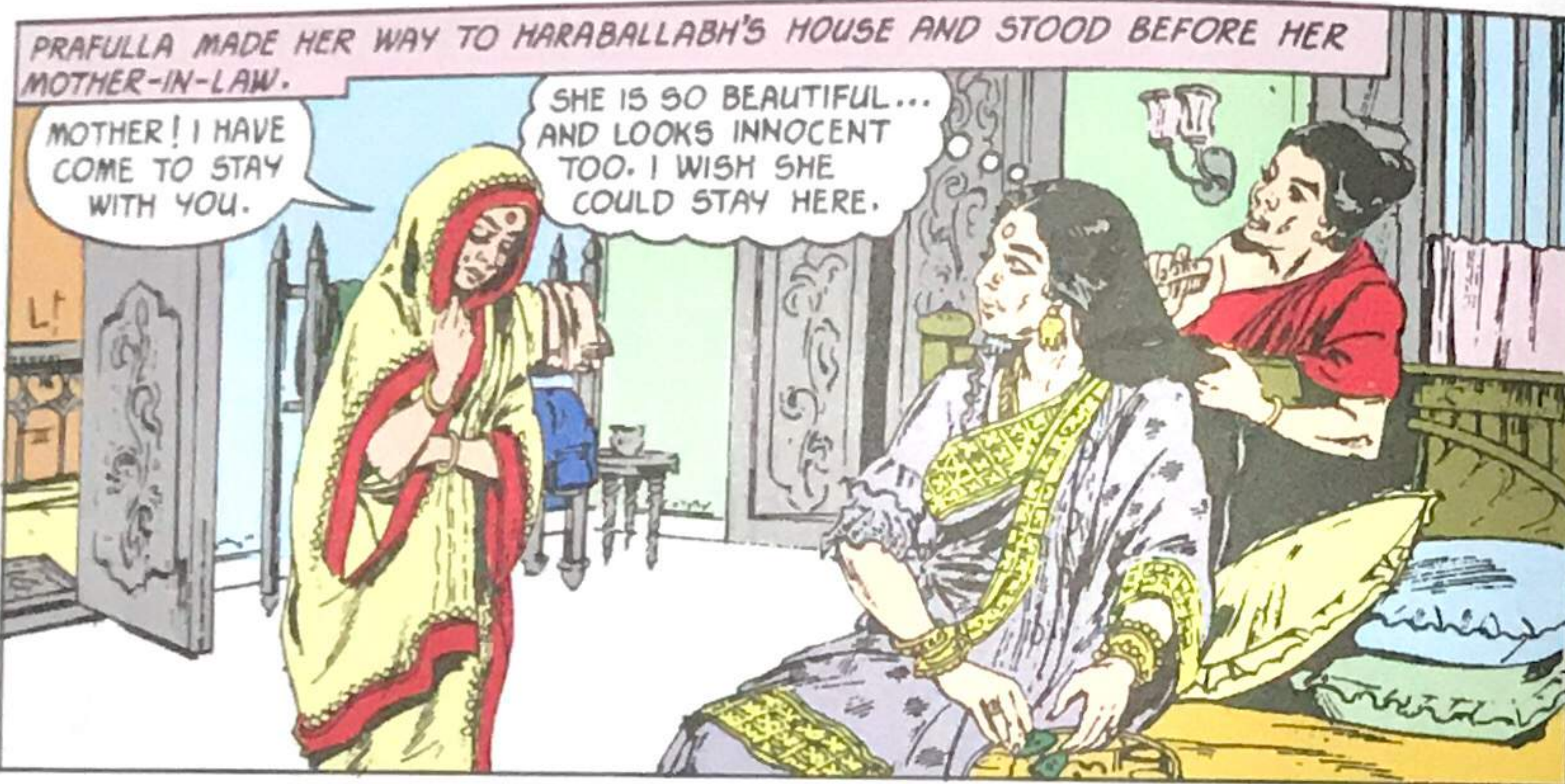
MOTHER! I CAN'T SEE YOU STARVING FOR MY SAKE. I'D RATHER GO TO MY IN-LAWS...

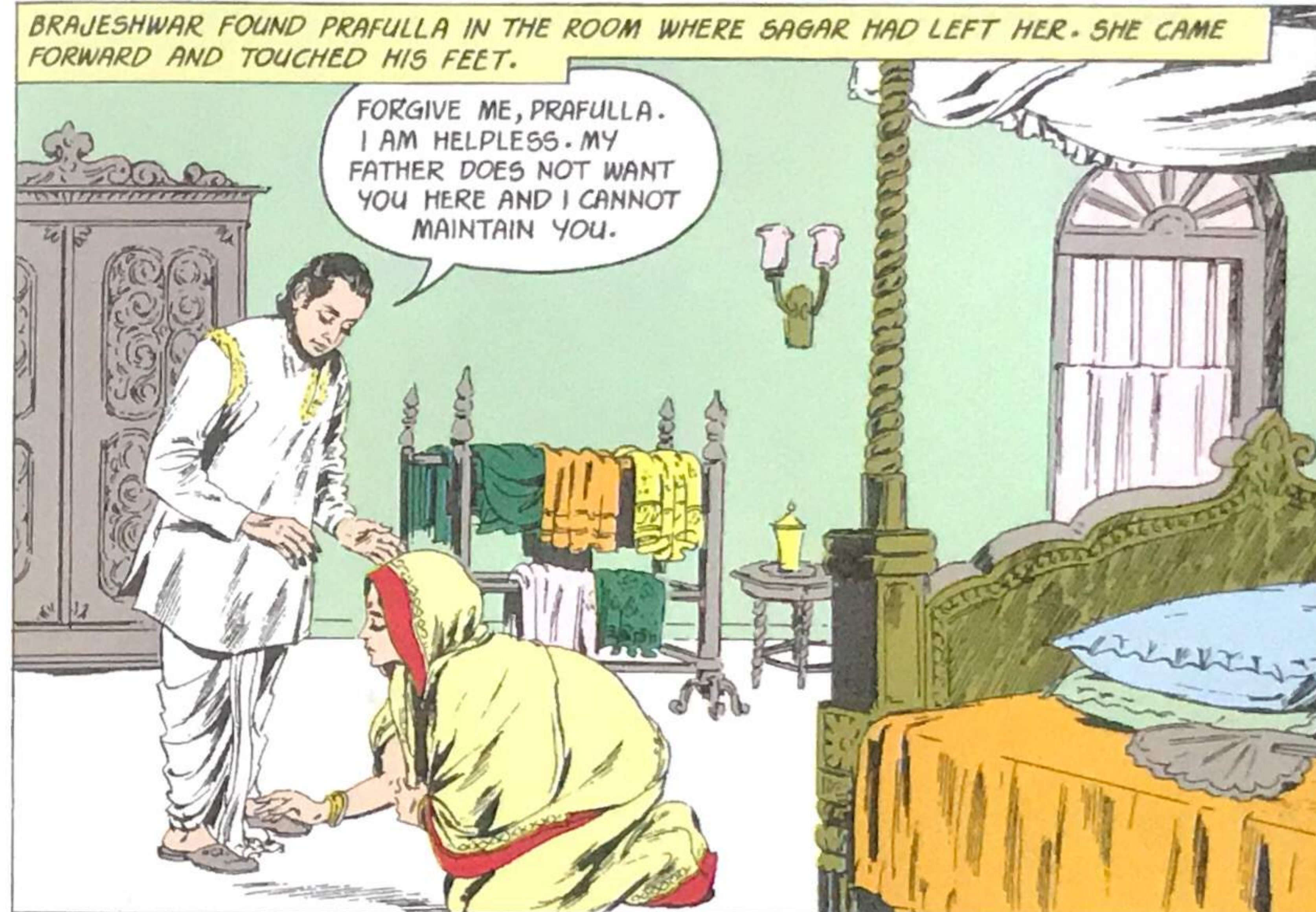
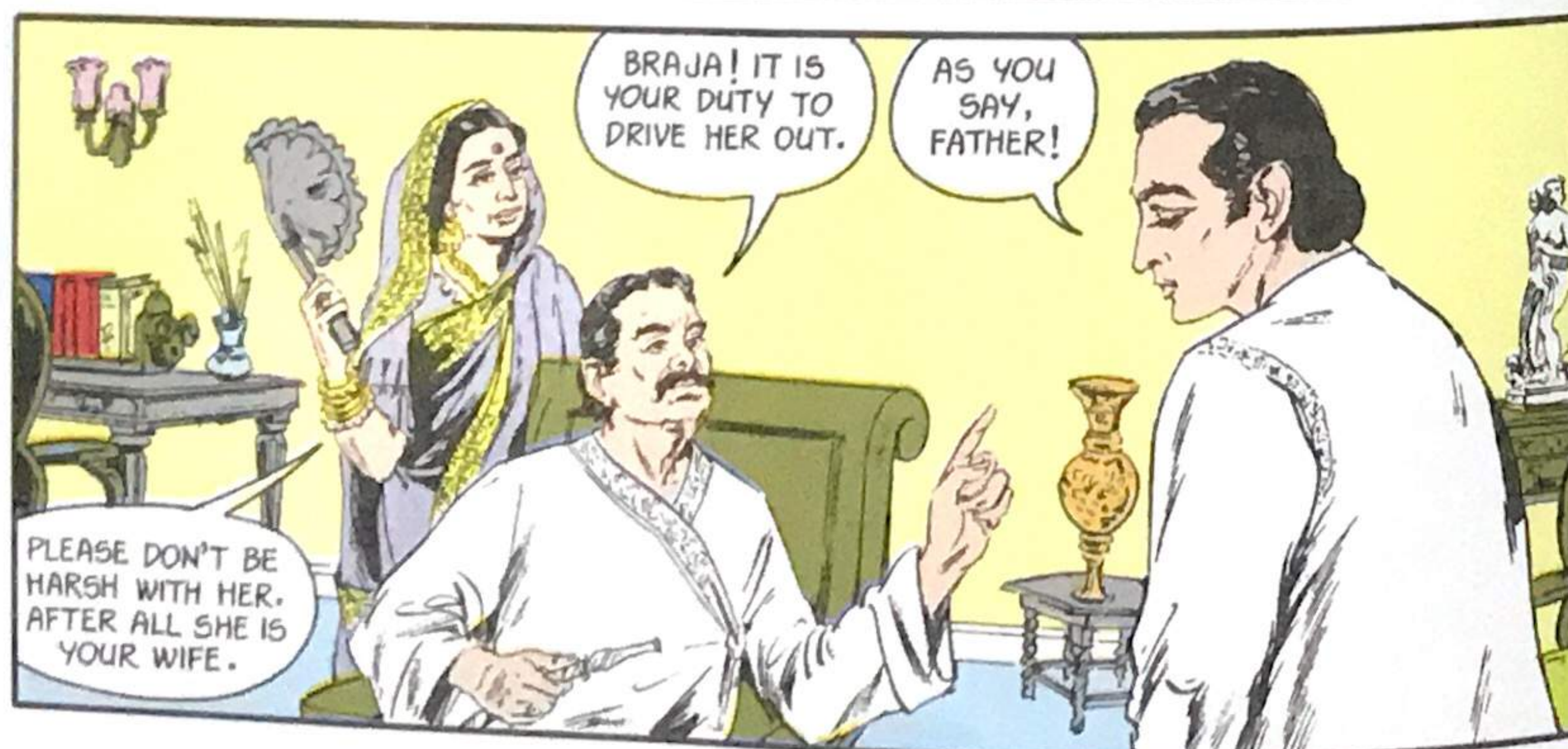
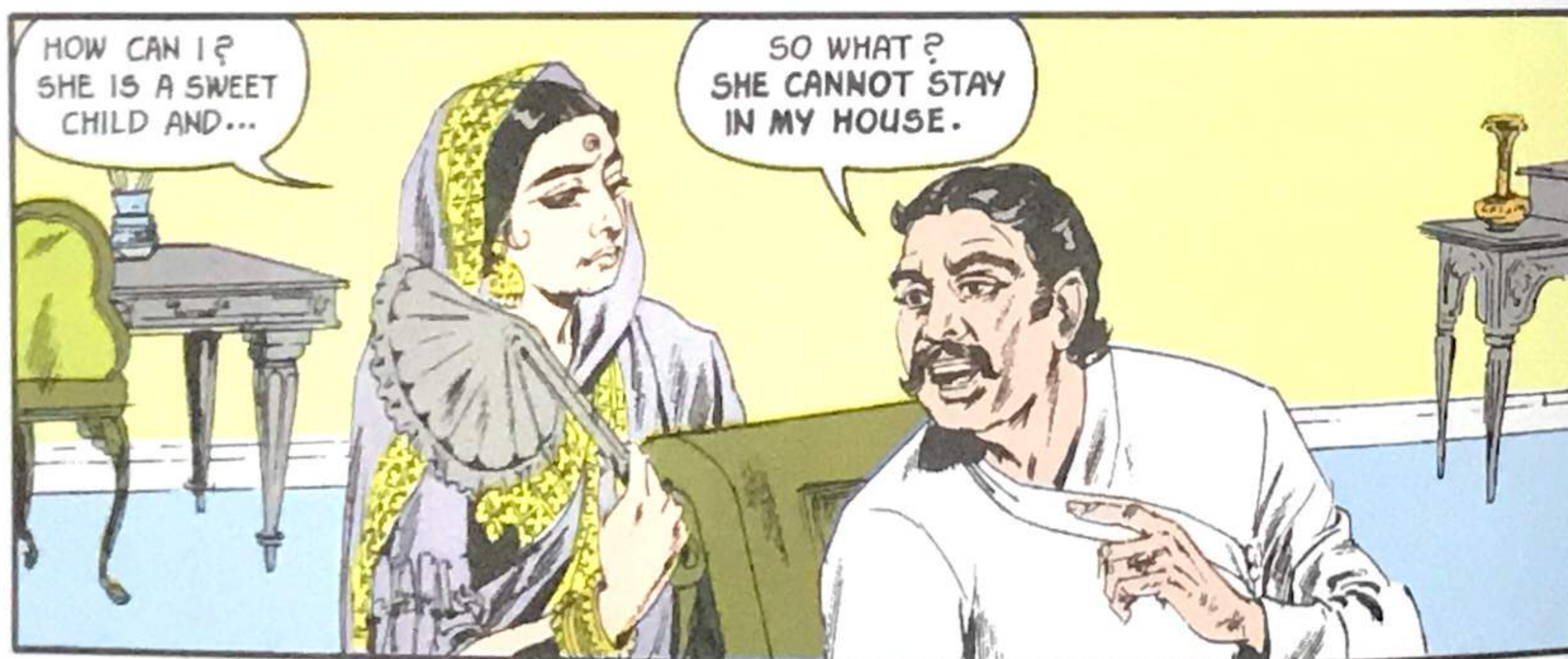
...AND BE HUMILIATED? NO, MY CHILD!



WHY NOT? THEY ARE OBLIGED TO MAINTAIN ME.







WHEN PRAFULLA RETURNED TO DURGAPUR, SHE FOUND HER MOTHER SERIOUSLY ILL.



ONE DARK NIGHT, A FEW DAYS AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEATH, FOUR MEN BROKE INTO PRAFULLA'S HOUSE.



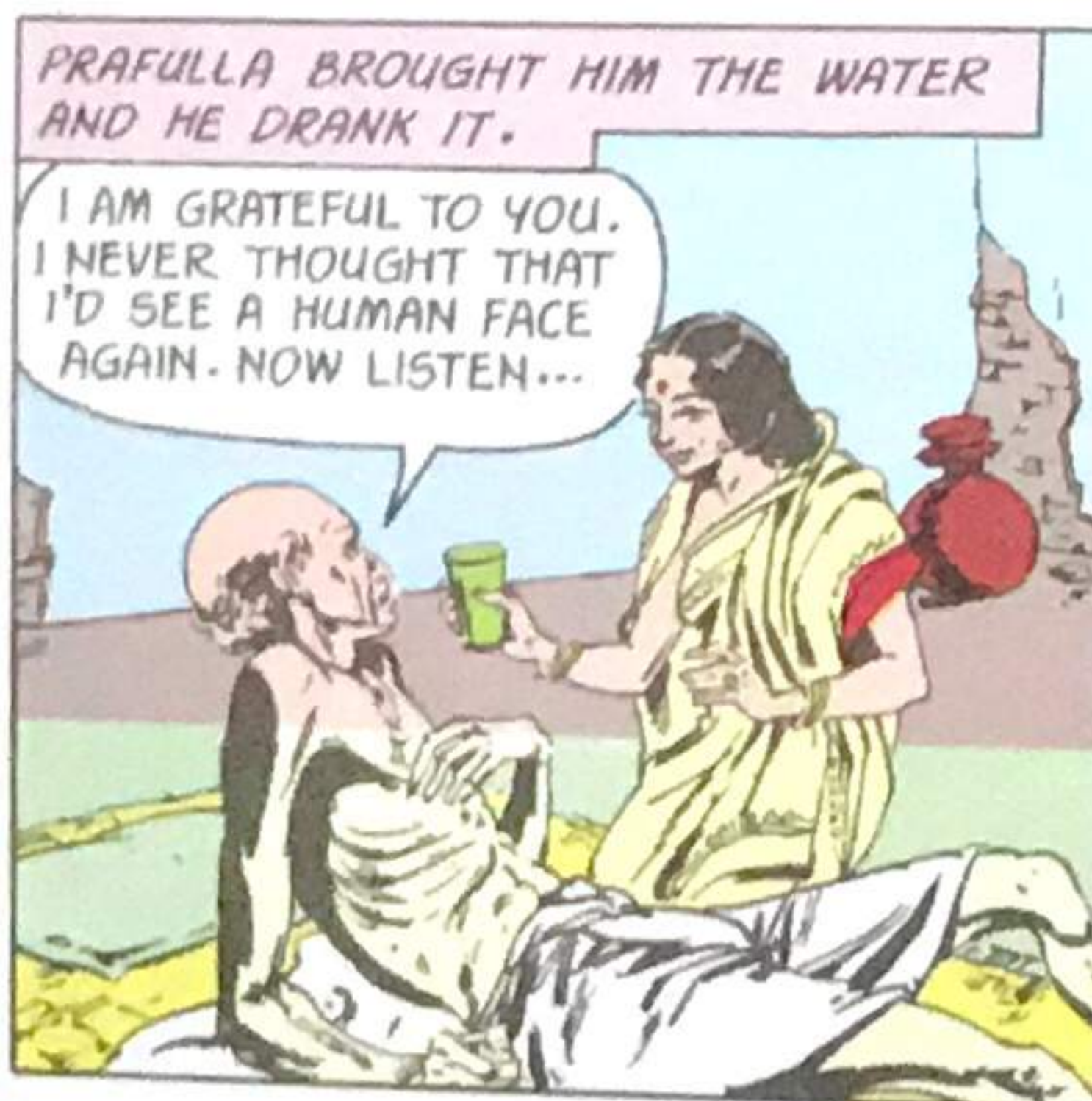
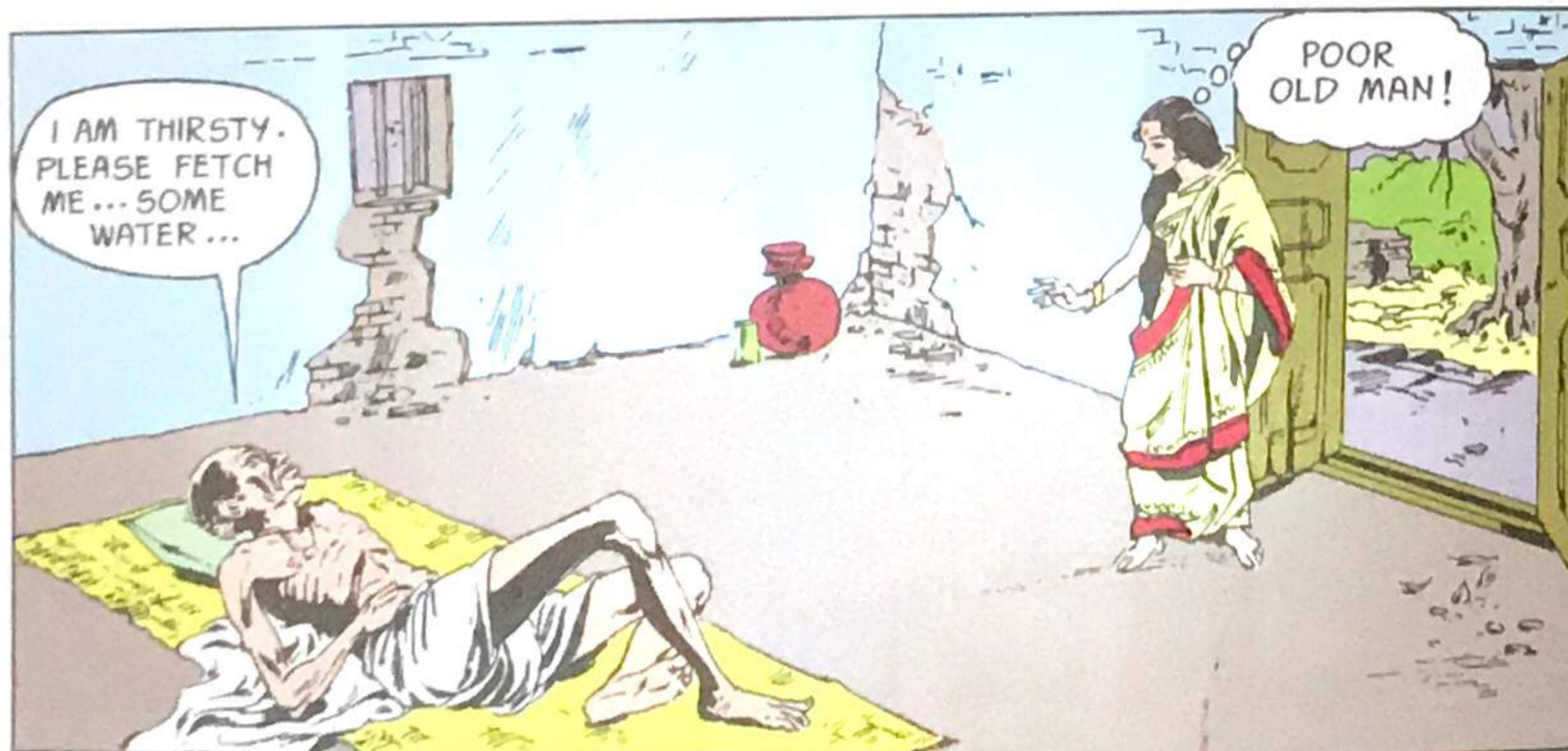
THE ZAMINDAR'S MEN CARRIED PRAFULLA THROUGH AN UNUSED JUNGLE PATH TO AVOID ANY ENCOUNTER WITH THE VILLAGE FOLK. WHEN THEY WERE DEEP IN THE JUNGLE —



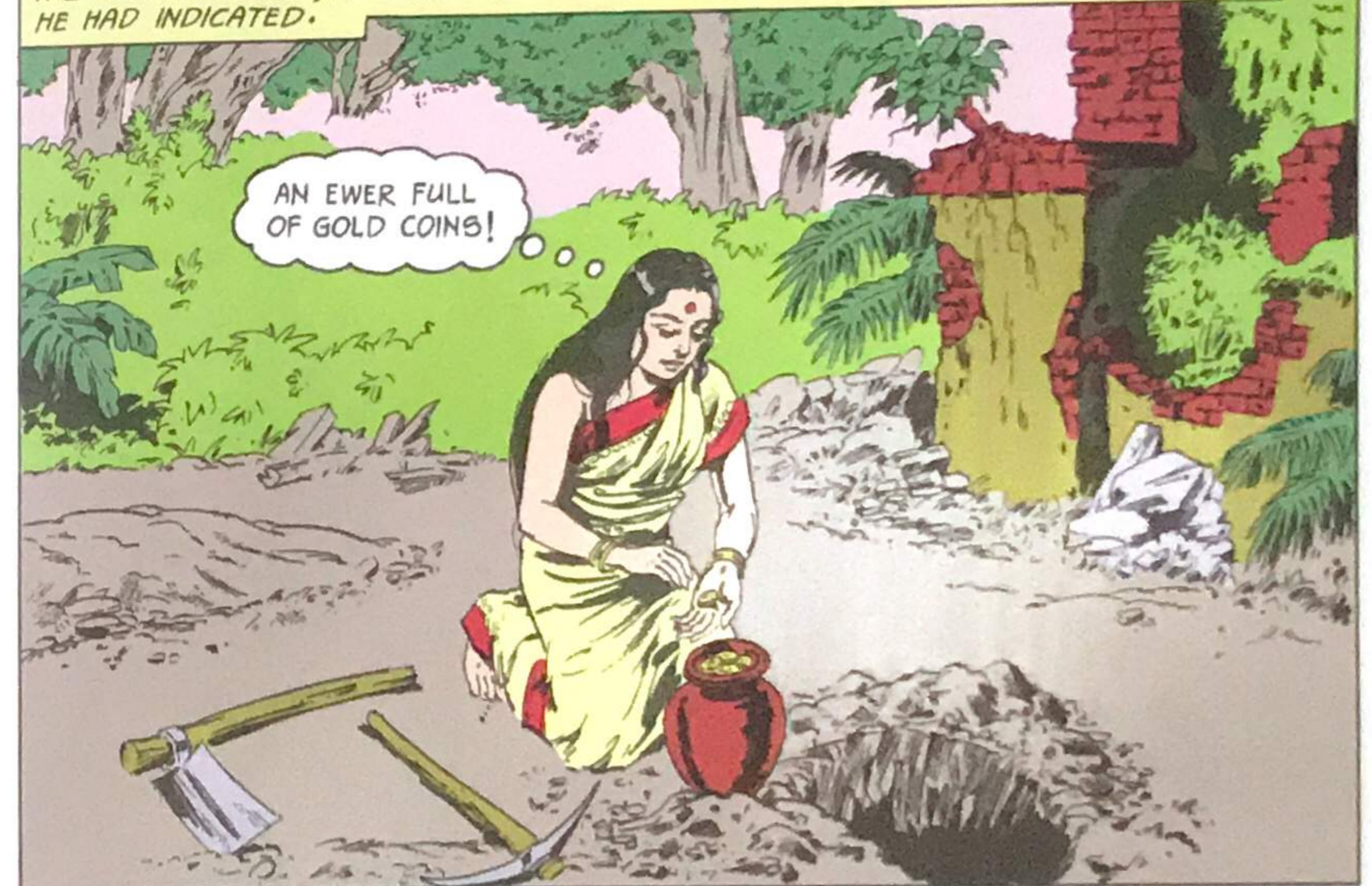
DROPPING THE PALANQUIN, THE MEN RAN AWAY.



AS SHE WANDERED ABOUT IN THE FOREST, PRAFULLA CAME UPON THE RUINS OF A HOUSE.



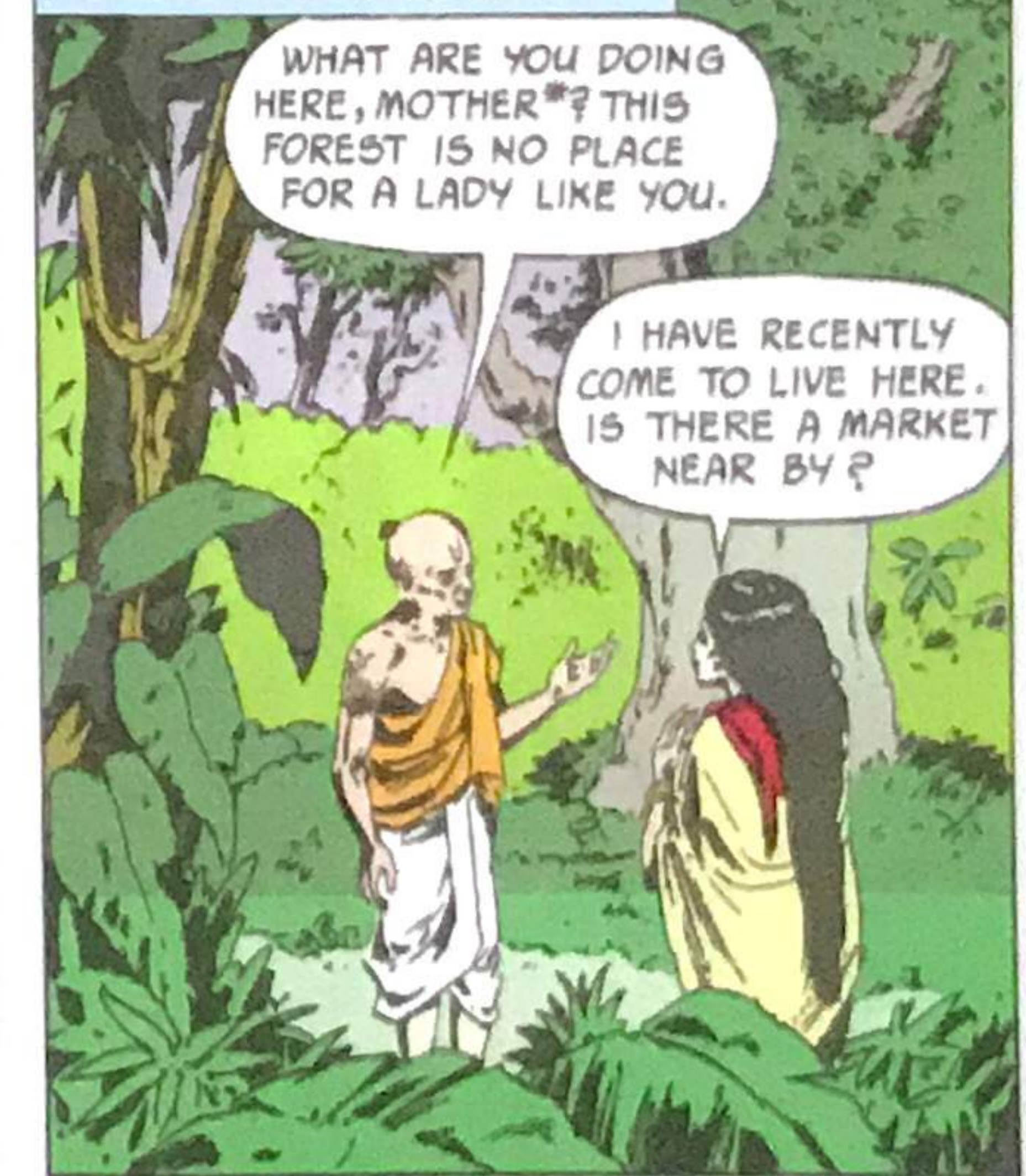
THE NEXT MORNING, THE OLD MAN DIED. PRAFULLA DUG THE GROUND AT THE SPOT HE HAD INDICATED.



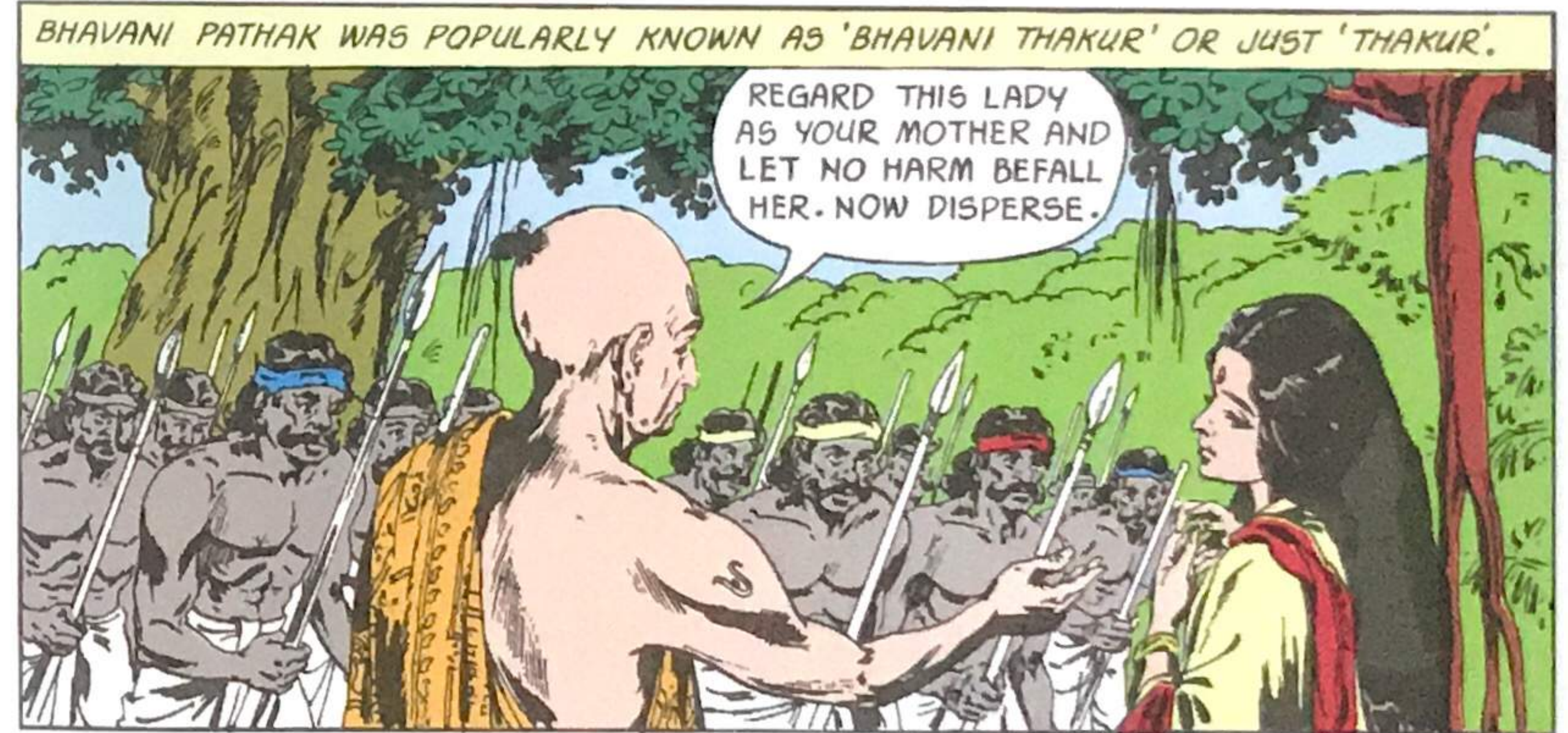
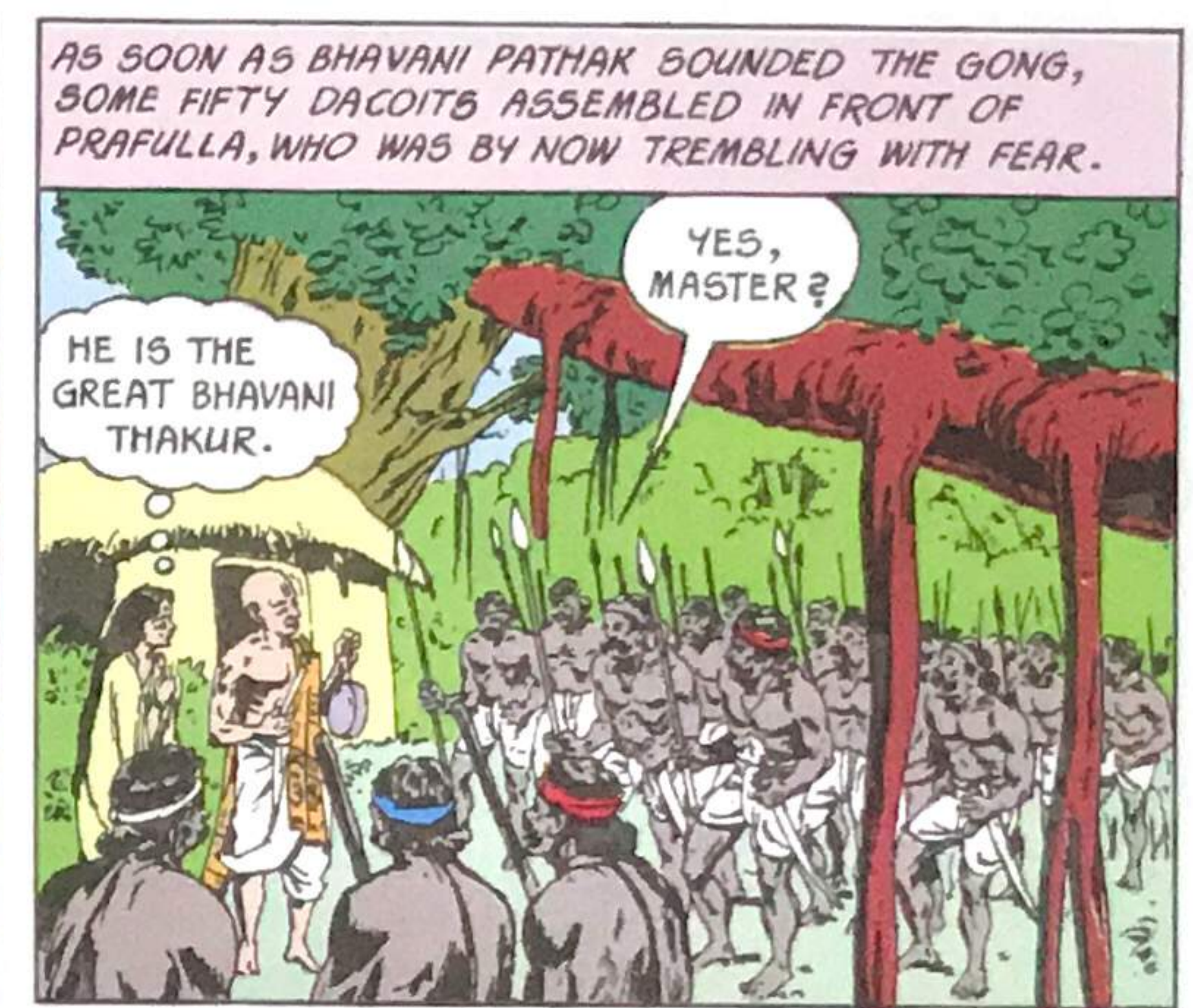
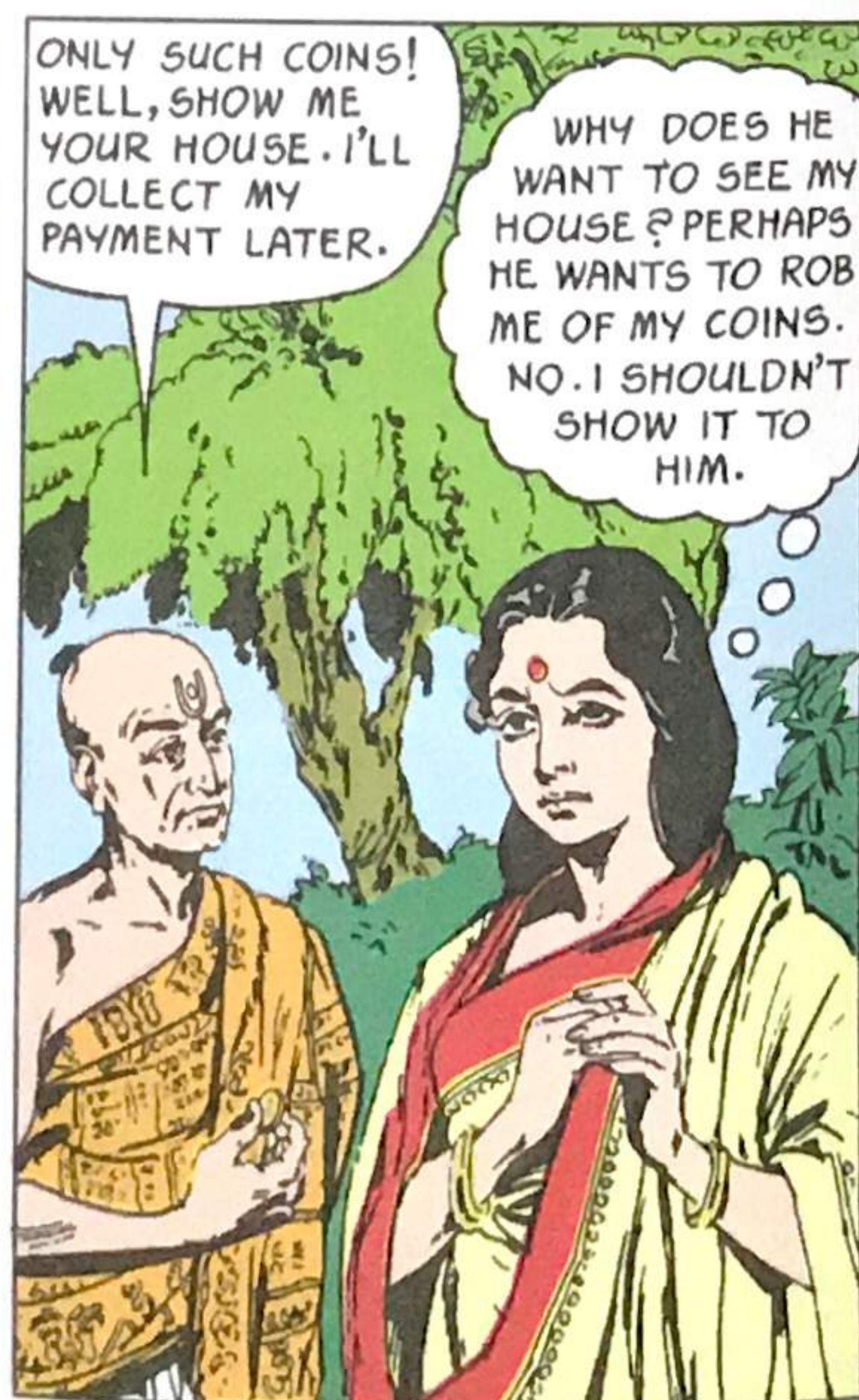
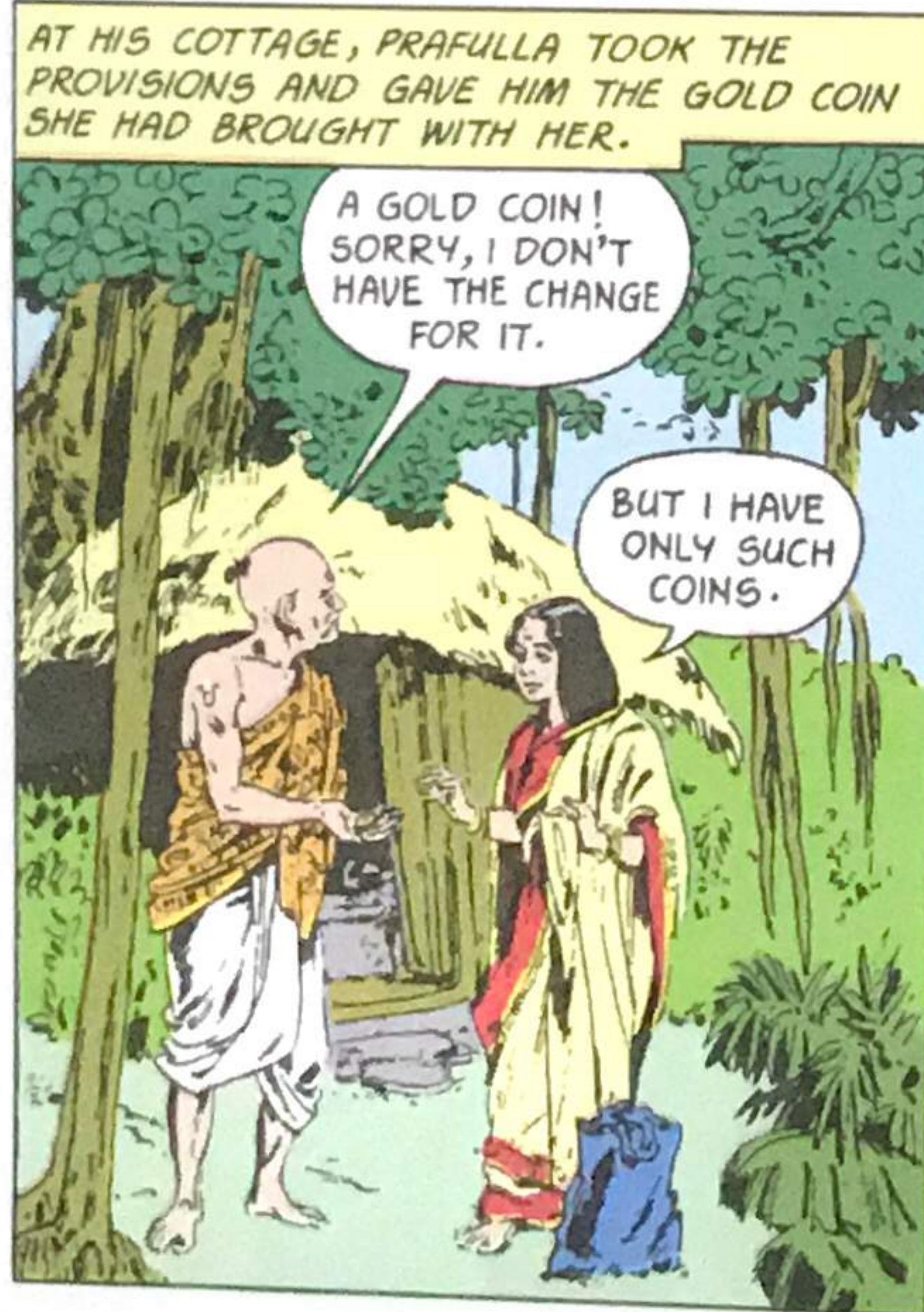
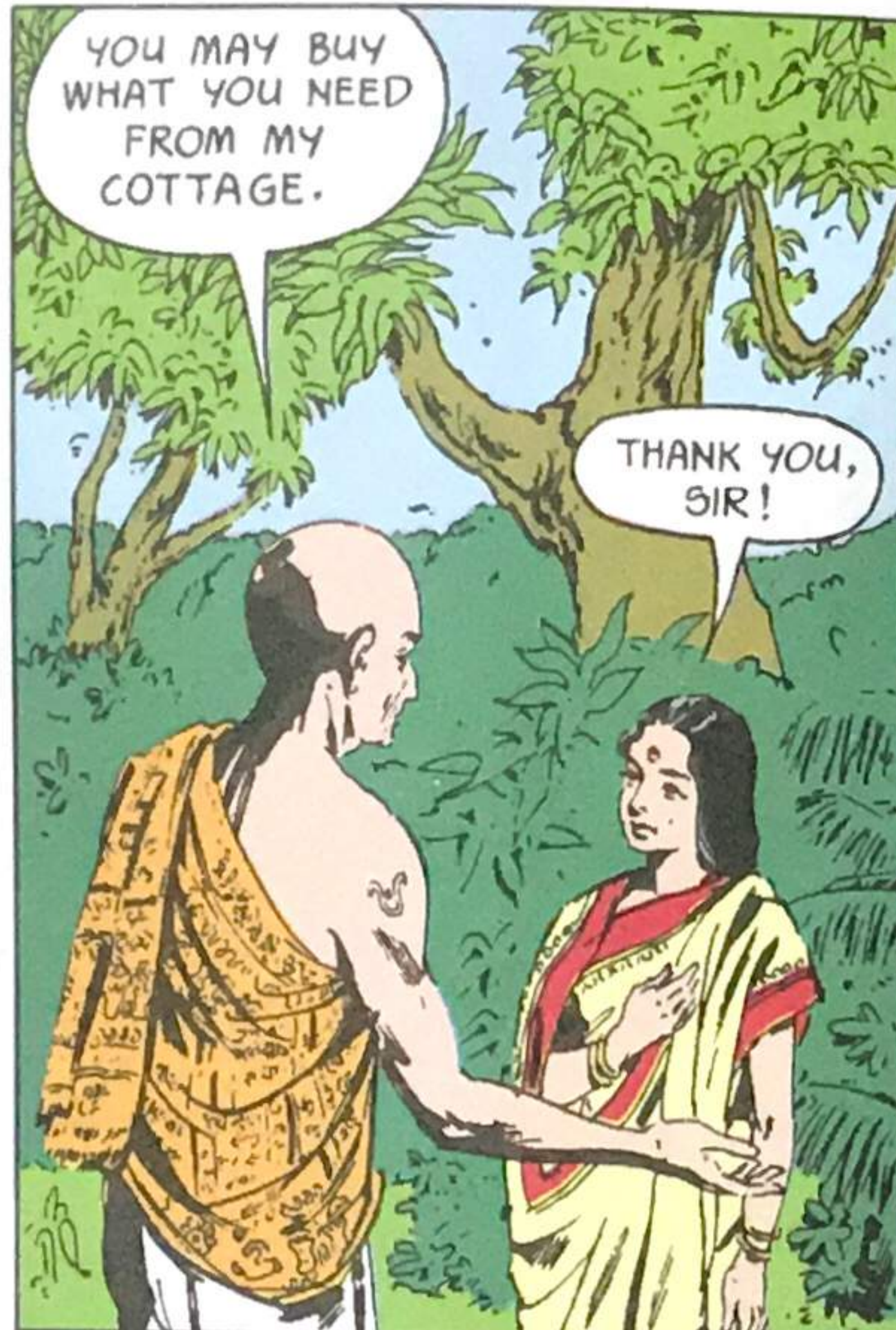
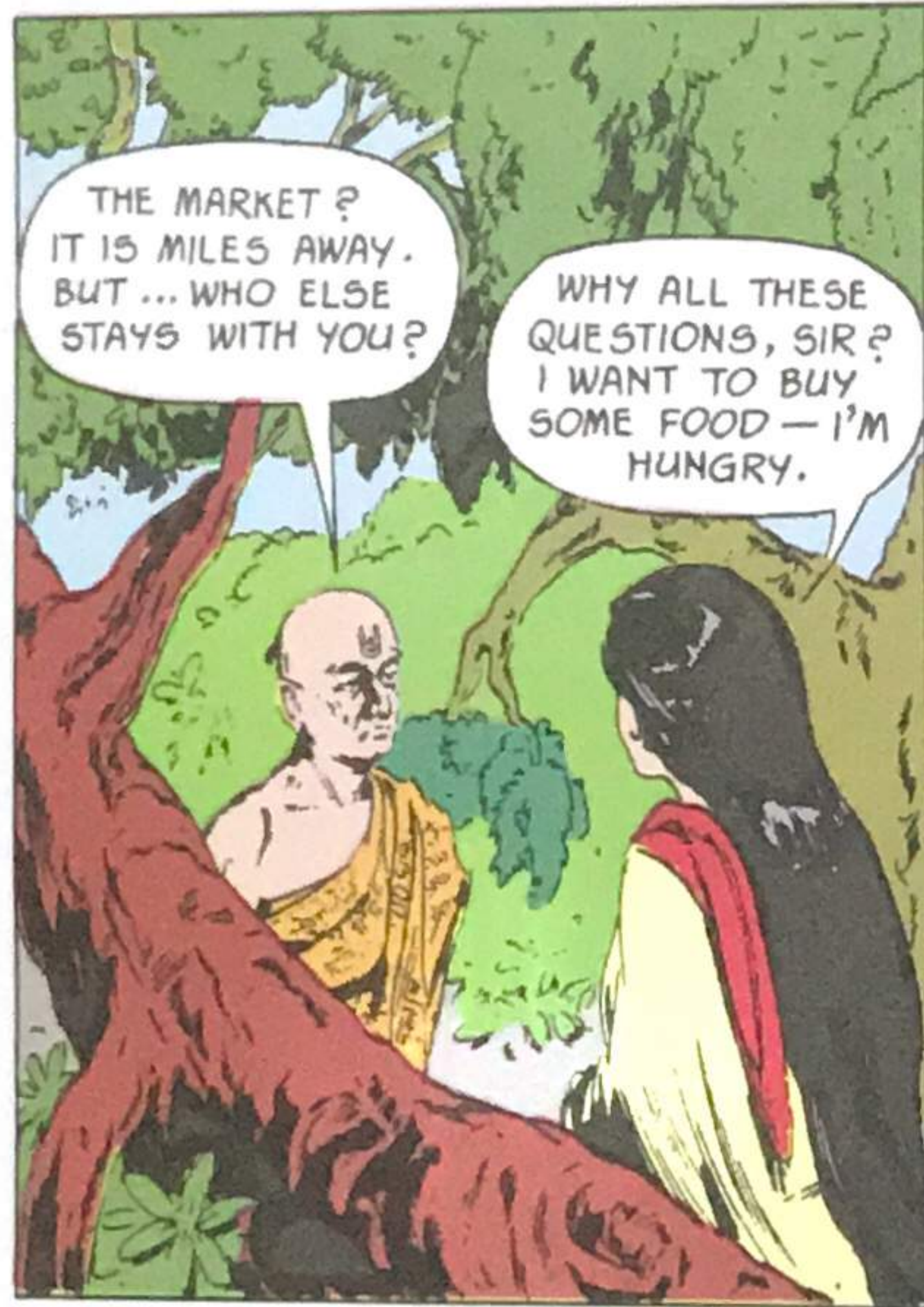
SHE BURIED THE DEAD BODY IN THE PIT FROM WHICH THE TREASURE HAD BEEN DUG. THEN SHE CARRIED THE PITCHER INSIDE AND HID IT IN A CORNER.

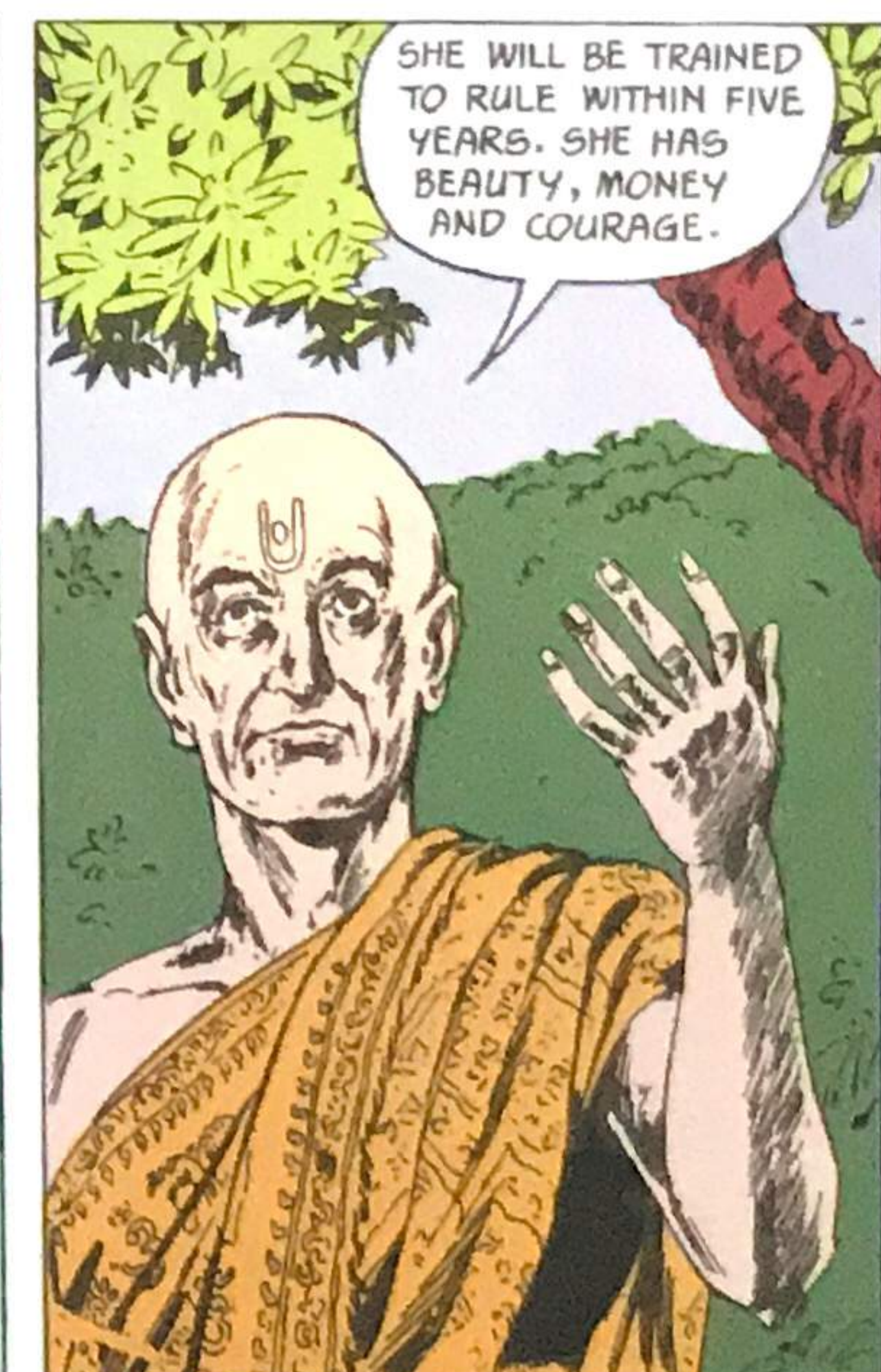
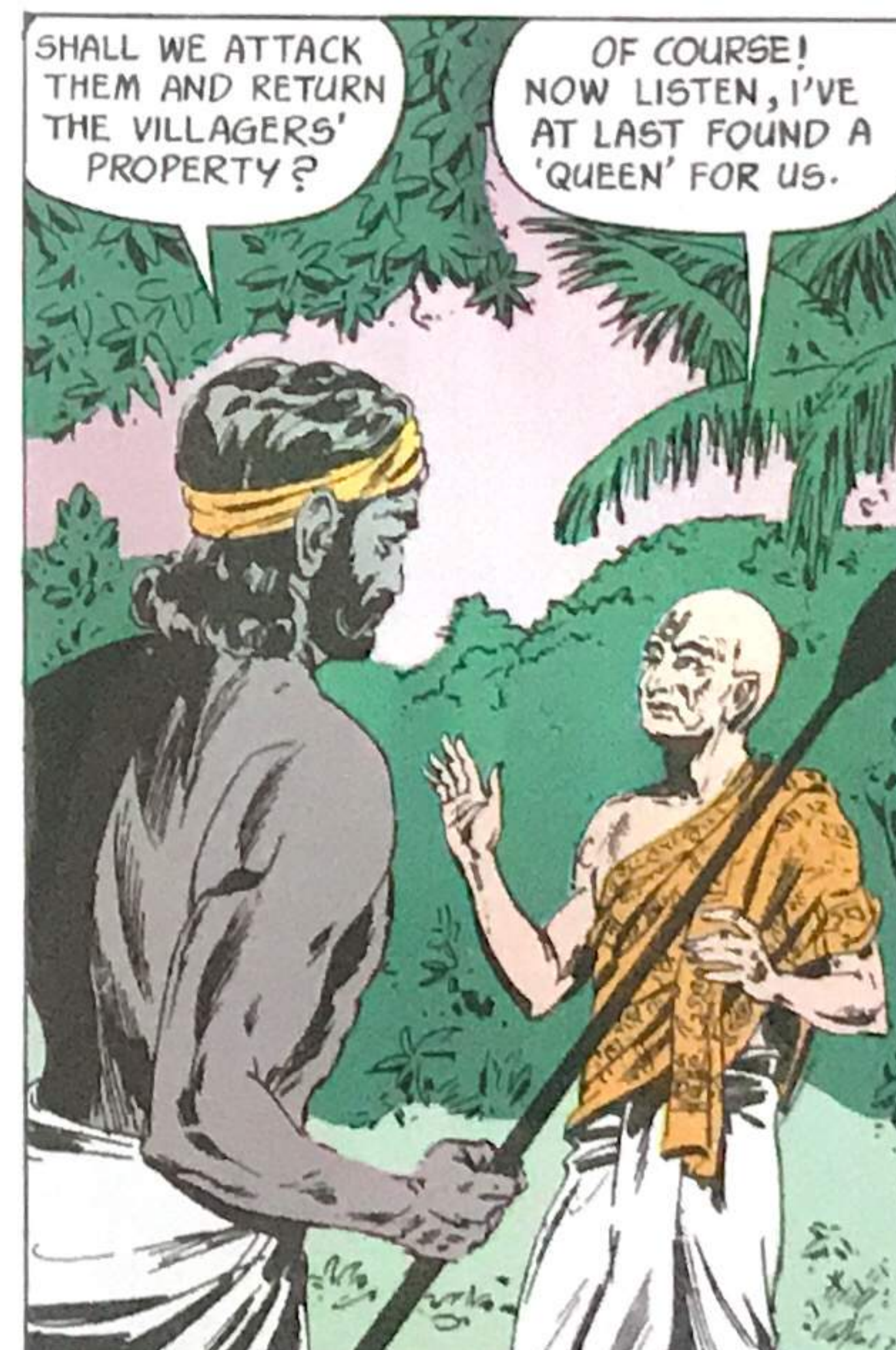
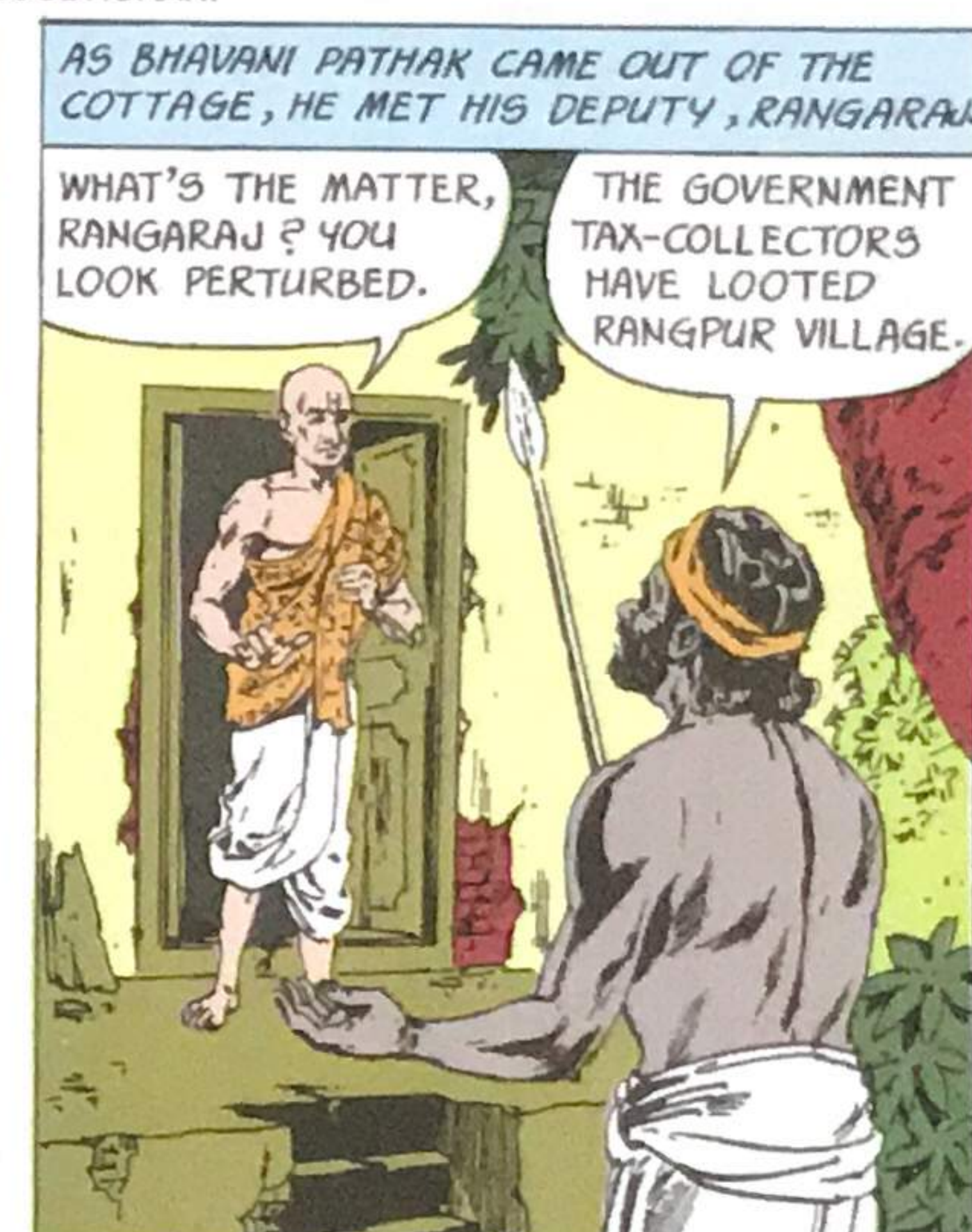
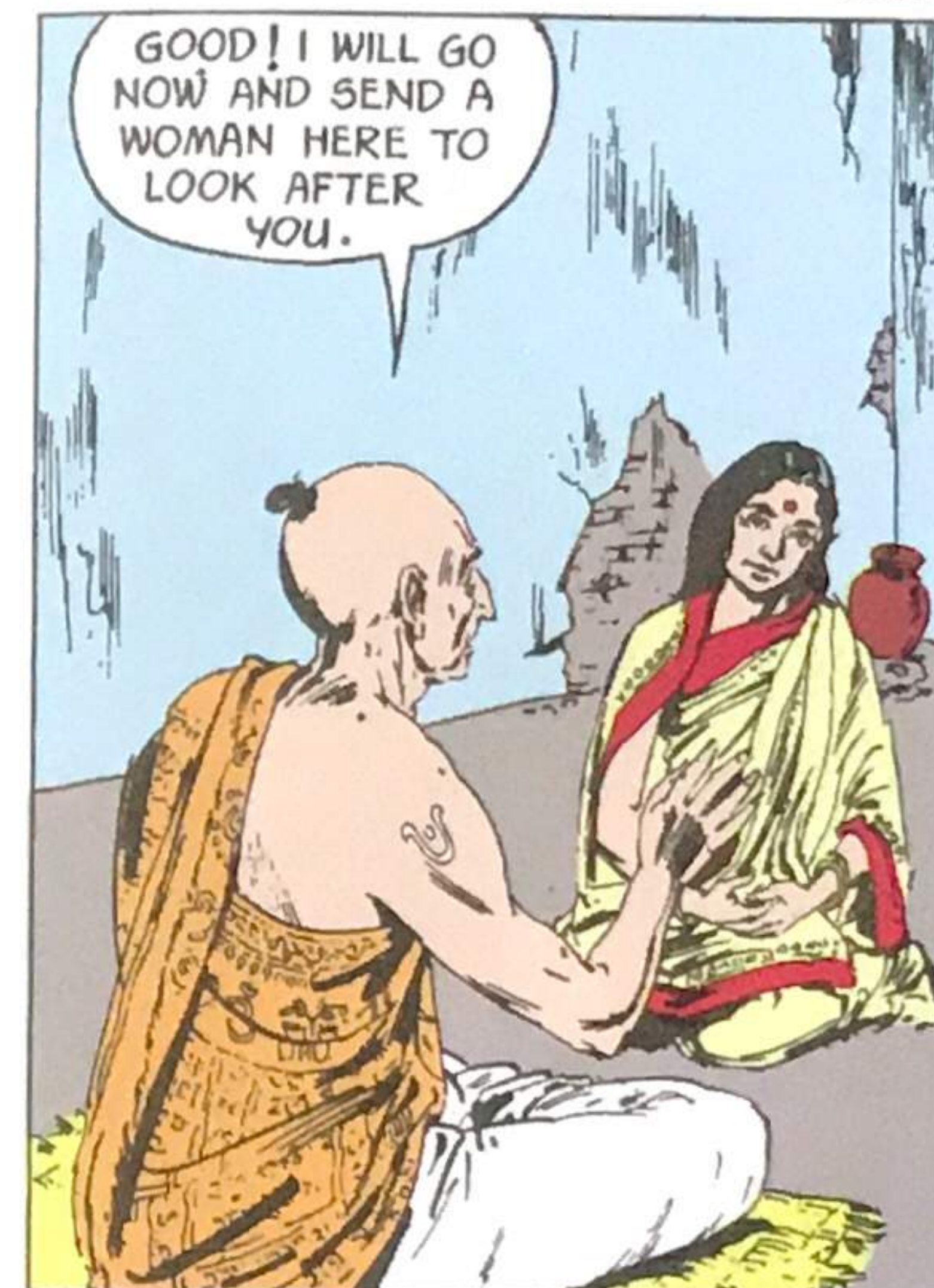
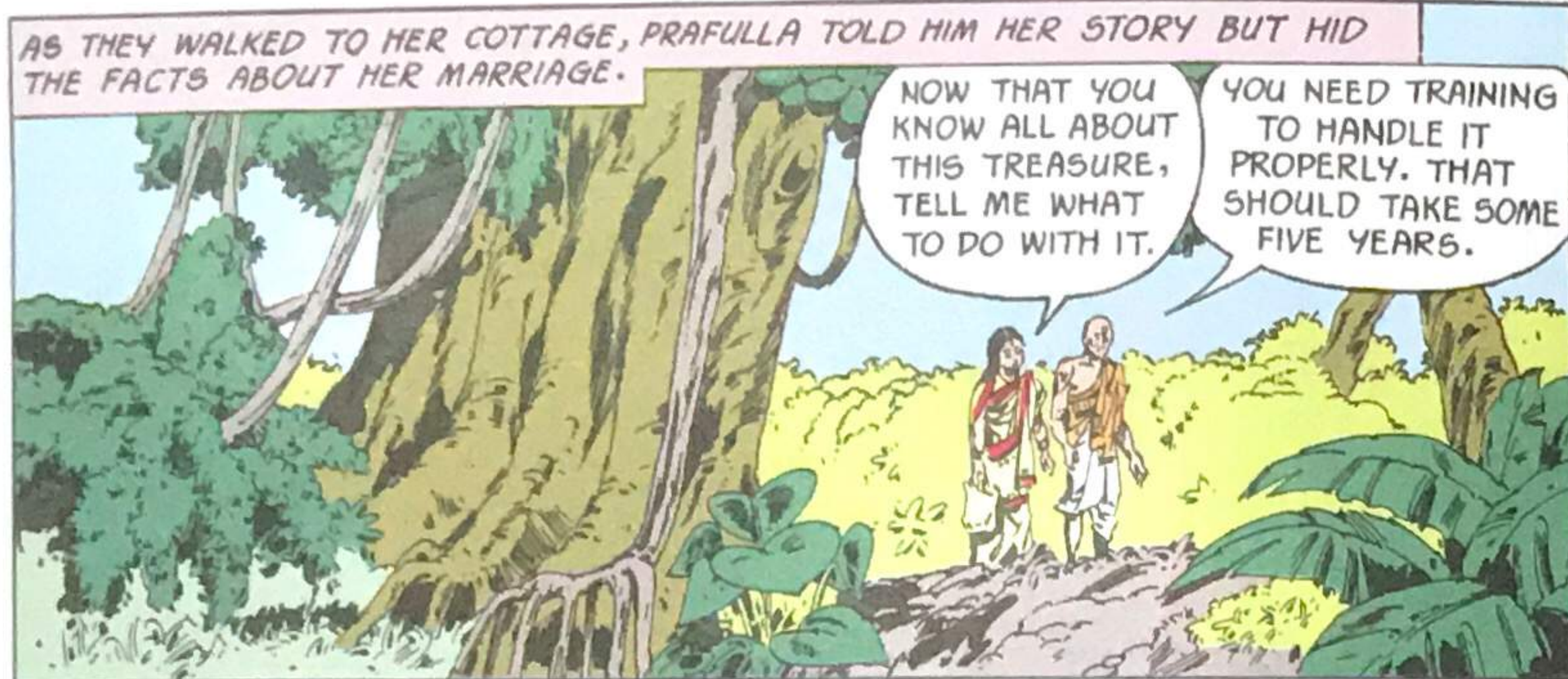


OUT IN THE FOREST AGAIN, SHE MET A PIOUS-LOOKING BRAHMAN.

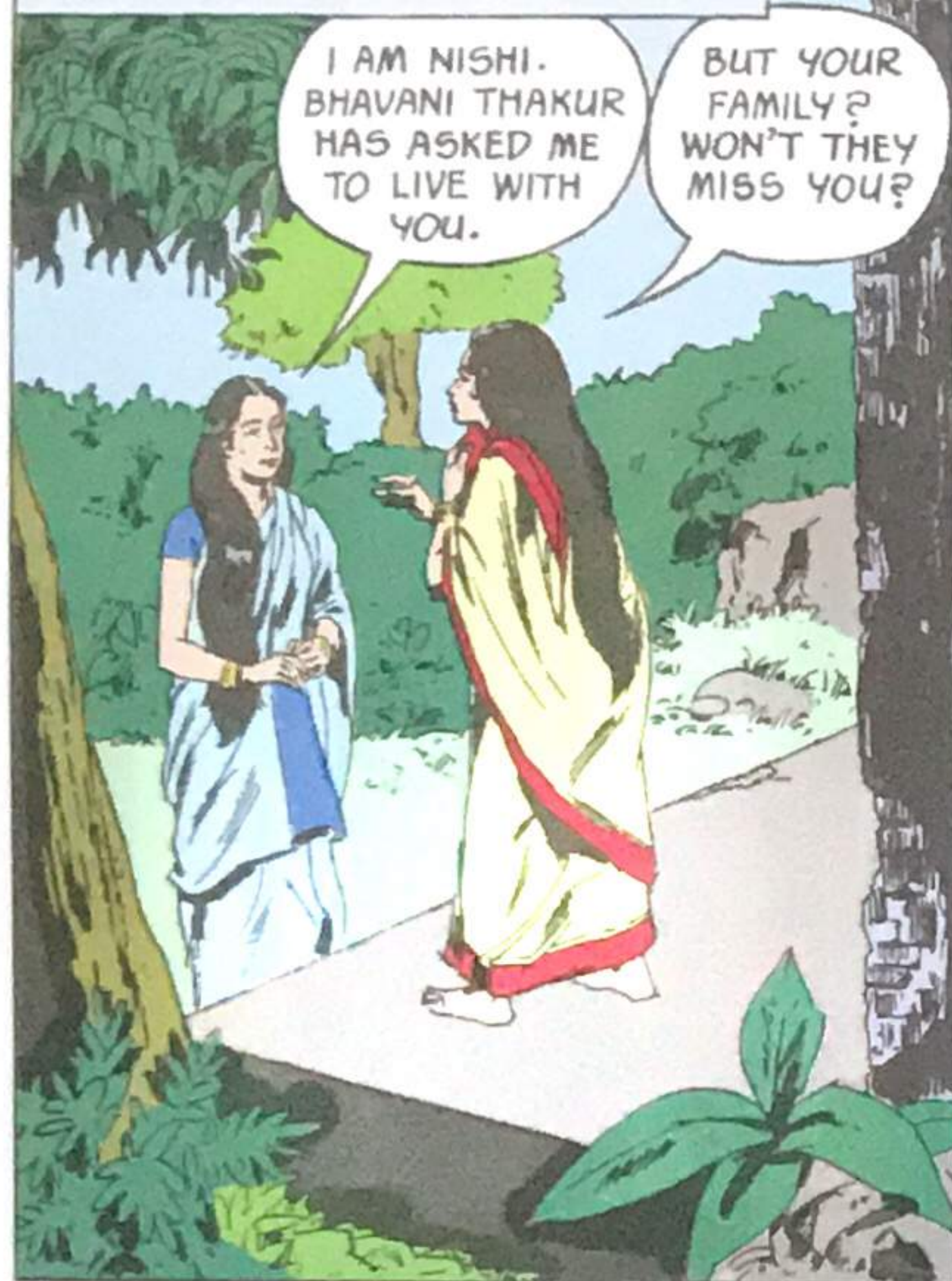


* AN AFFECTIONATE TERM OF ADDRESS FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES.

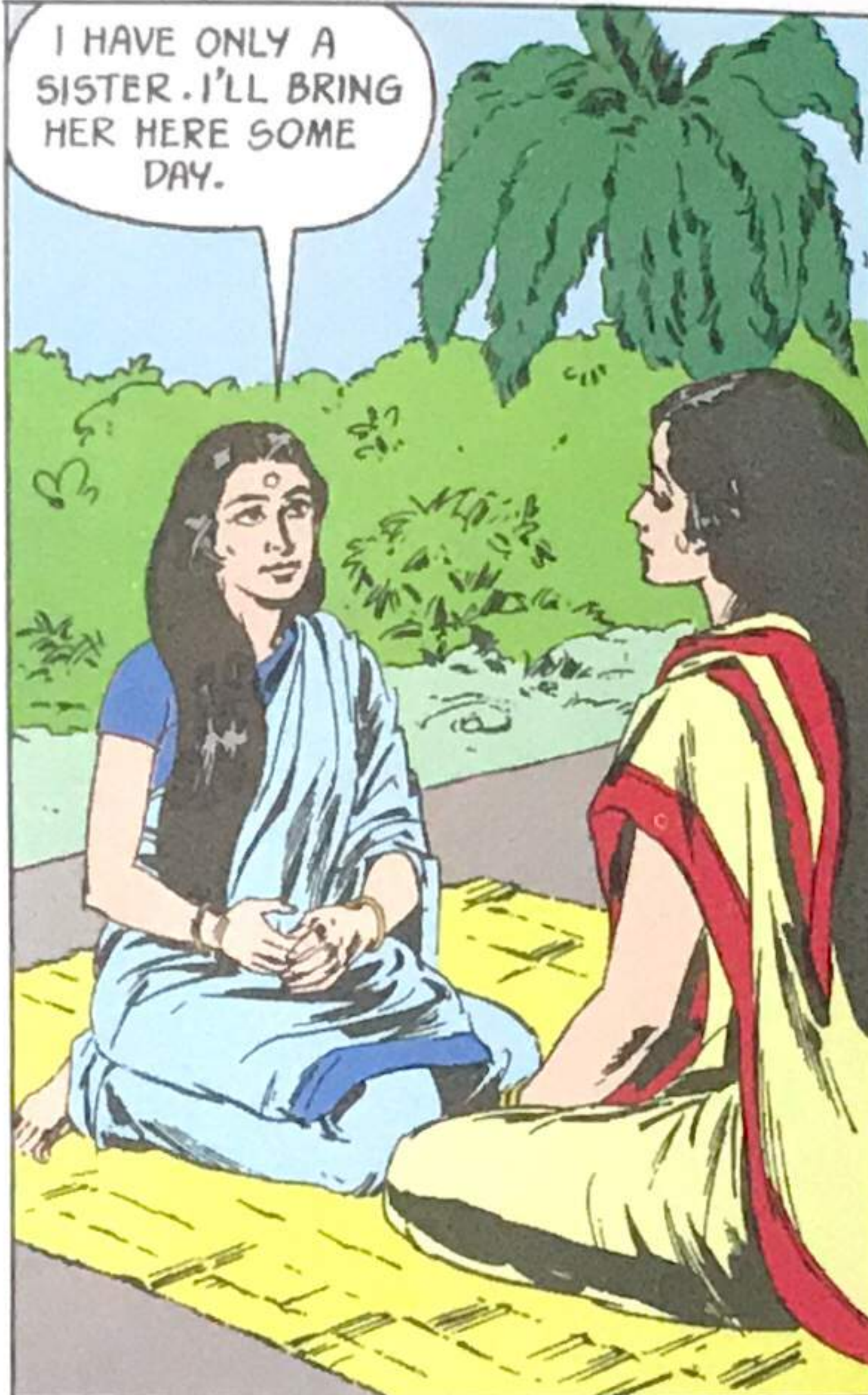




SOON AFTER BHAVANI PATHAK LEFT, PRAFULLA'S INSTRUCTRESS ARRIVED.



I HAVE ONLY A SISTER. I'LL BRING HER HERE SOME DAY.



PRAFULLA'S TRAINING BEGAN THE NEXT MORNING.

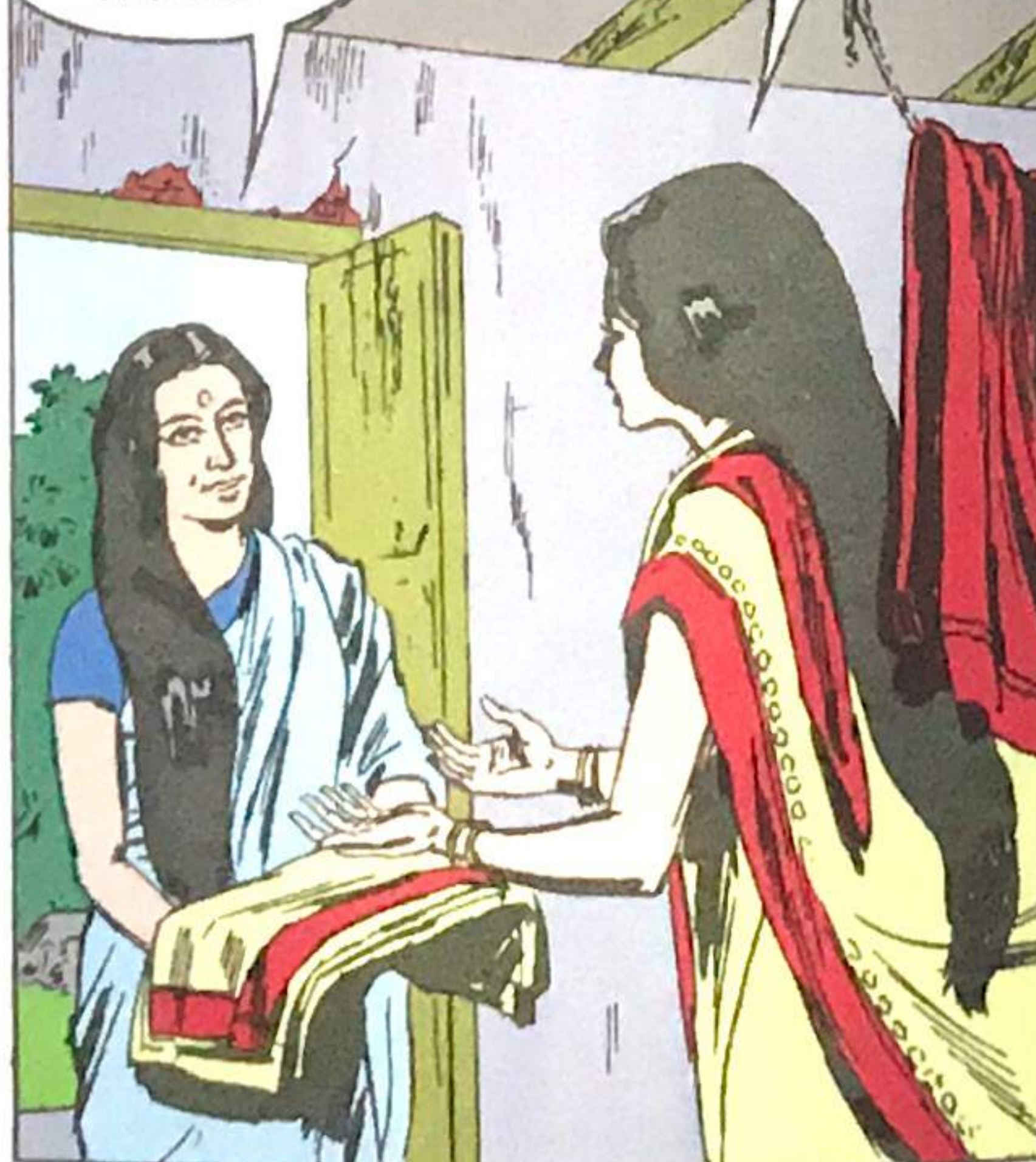
YOU ARE TO HAVE ONLY ONE MEAL A DAY, CONSISTING OF COARSE RICE AND ONE VEGETABLE.

THAT IS ENOUGH FOR ME. I HAVE LIVED ON WORSE FARE.



THIS IS YOUR WARDROBE—FOUR SARIS—HIS ORDER.

THAT'S MORE THAN SUFFICIENT FOR ME.



WHILE NISHI TOOK CHARGE OF PRAFULLA'S PRACTICAL TRAINING, BHAVANI PATHAK INSTRUCTED HER ON VARIOUS ARTS AND SCIENCES.

NOW THAT YOU'VE LEARNT THE LANGUAGE YOU MAY TAKE UP LITERATURE. LET KUMARA SAMBHAVAM* BE THE FIRST BOOK.



THE NEXT MORNING —

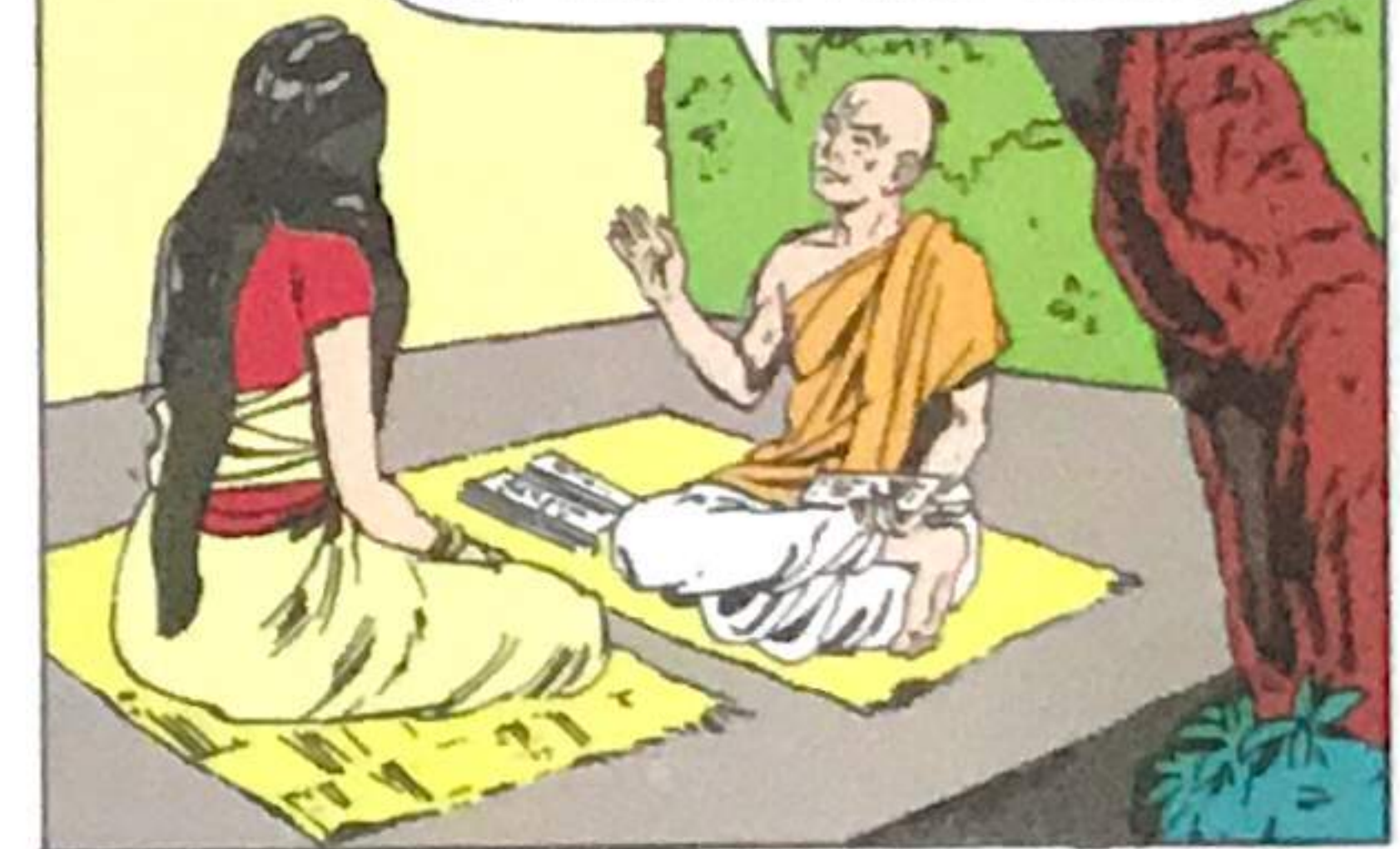
THIS YEAR YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SLEEP ON THE BARE FLOOR.

ALL I NEED IS A PLACE TO SLEEP.



BHAVANI PATHAK EXPLAINED THE GITA† TO HER.

"ARJUNA!" SAYS KRISHNA, "WORK THEN FOR WORK'S SAKE, AND NOT FOR THE FRUIT THEREOF."



IN THE THIRD YEAR —

WRESTLING DISCIPLINES BOTH BODY AND MIND.



IN THOSE FIVE YEARS PRAFULLA'S TRAINING WAS COMPLETE.

NOW YOU CAN DEAL WITH ANY SITUATION WITH A CALM AND COURAGEOUS MIND.

BUT WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?

YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL MY MONEY — PLEASE GIVE UP DACOITY.

I AM NOT IN IT FOR THE MONEY. IT IS MY MEANS OF FIGHTING INJUSTICE.

THEN I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN YOU AS YOUR ASSISTANT.

I DID EXPECT YOU TO JOIN US; NOT AS MY ASSISTANT BUT AS OUR QUEEN!

PRAFULLA THUS BECAME THE LEADER OF THE DACOIT GANG. IN A SHORT PERIOD SHE BECAME WELL-KNOWN ALL OVER BENGAL AS DEVI CHOUDHURANI *

* FEMININE OF CHOUDHURI, WHICH MEANS CHIEFTAIN.

MEANWHILE, IN HARABALLABH'S HOUSE —

SEVEN YEARS HAVE GONE BY SINCE I LAST SAW YOU, PRAFULLA.

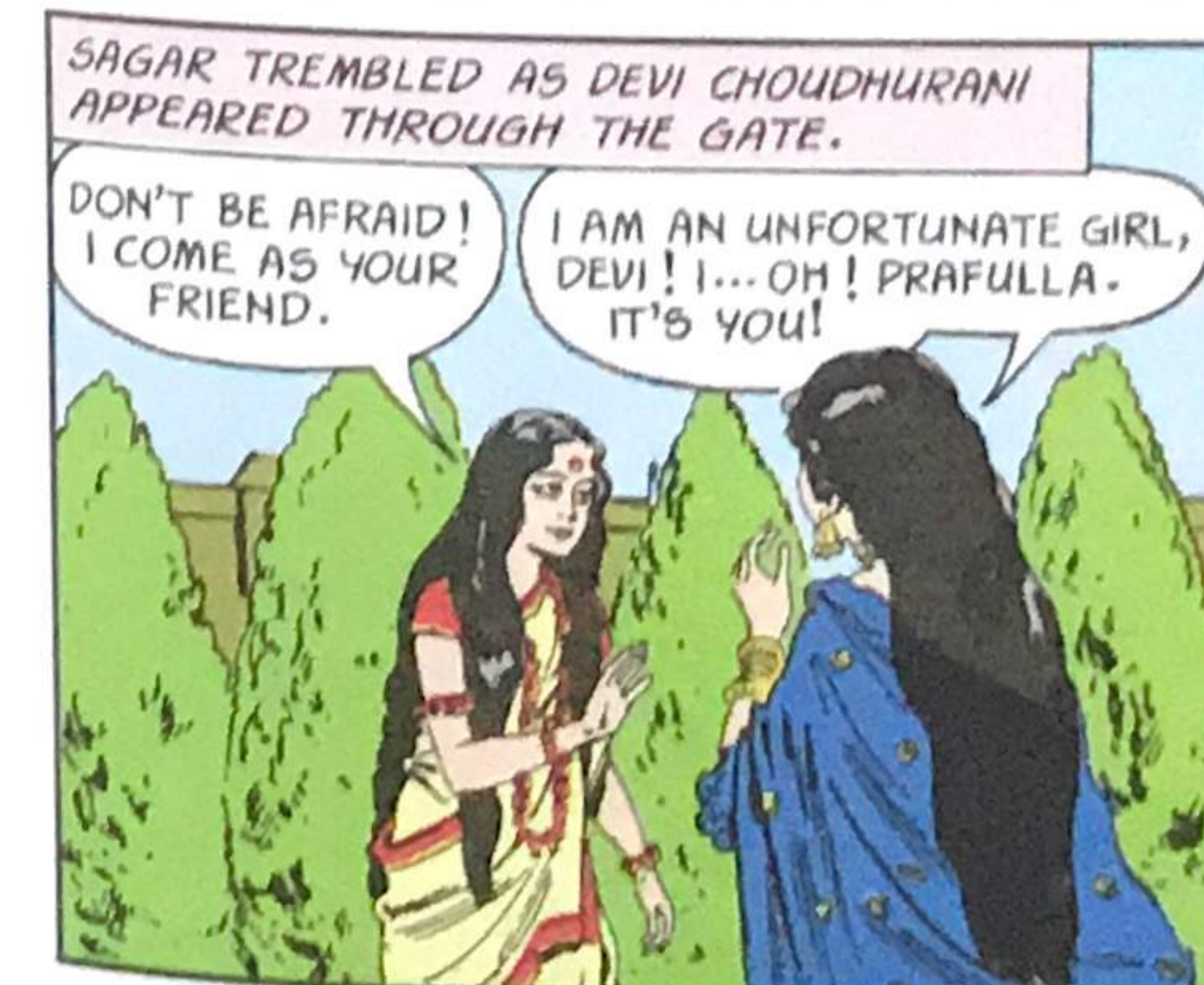
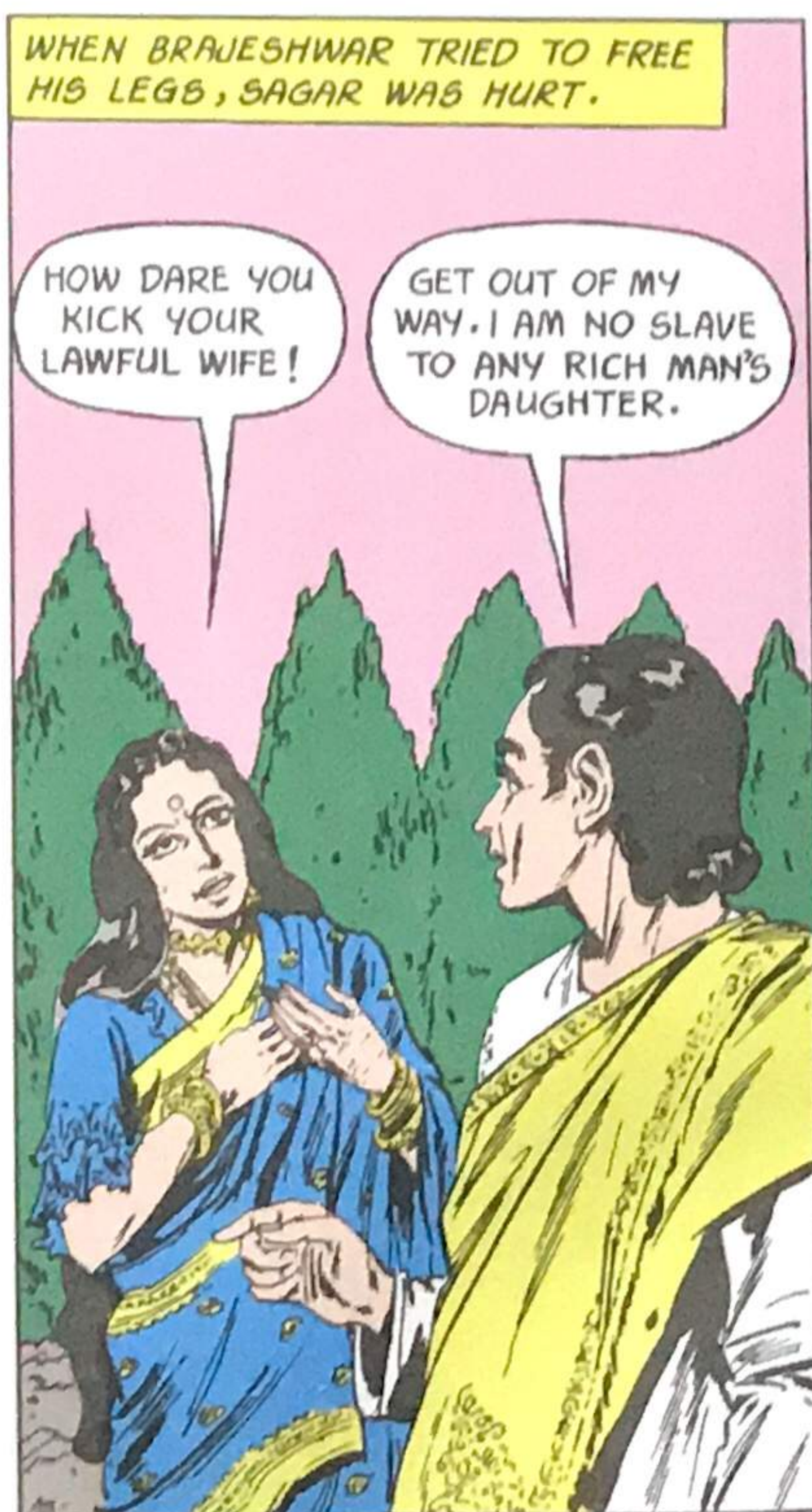
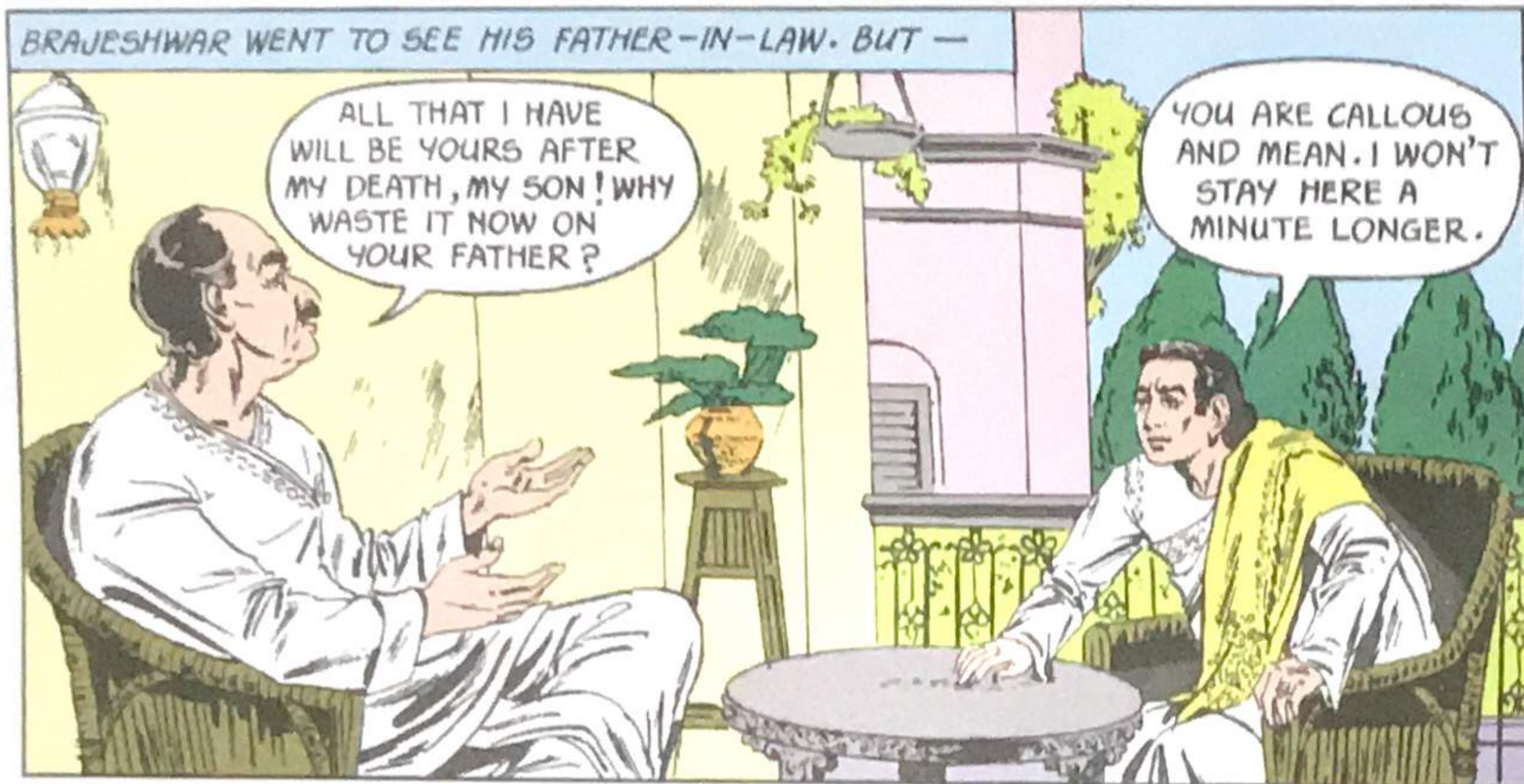
THE PEOPLE OF YOUR VILLAGE SWEAR THAT YOU ARE DEAD. BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT YOU ARE ALIVE.

JUST THEN —

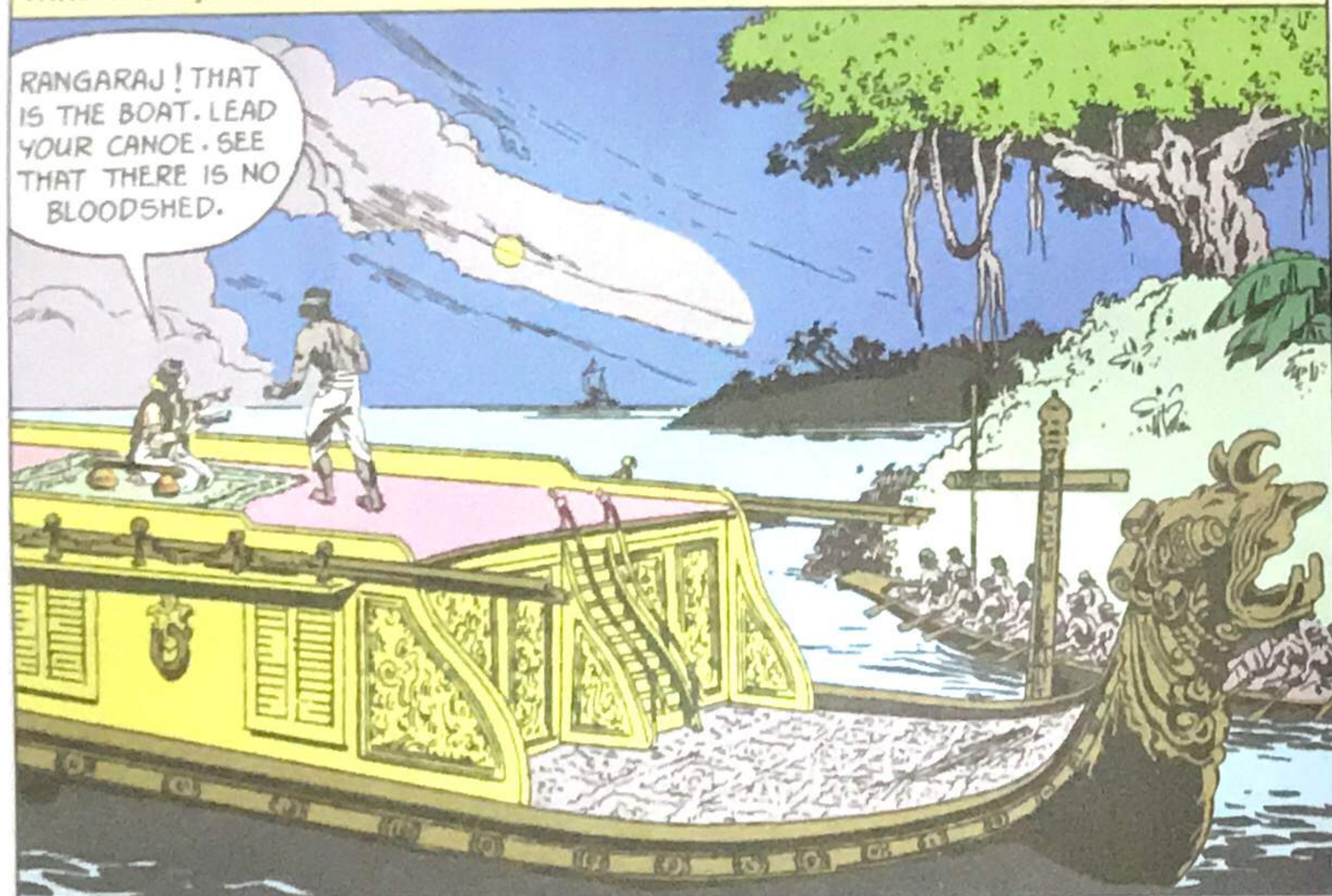
I AM RUINED, MY SON! ONCE AGAIN THE DACOITS HAVE LOOTED MY REVENUE COLLECTIONS.

MY TAX ARREARS HAVE MOUNTED TO RS. 50,000. IF I DO NOT PAY, I WILL BE ARRESTED.

I WILL TRY TO BORROW THE AMOUNT FROM SAGAR'S FATHER.



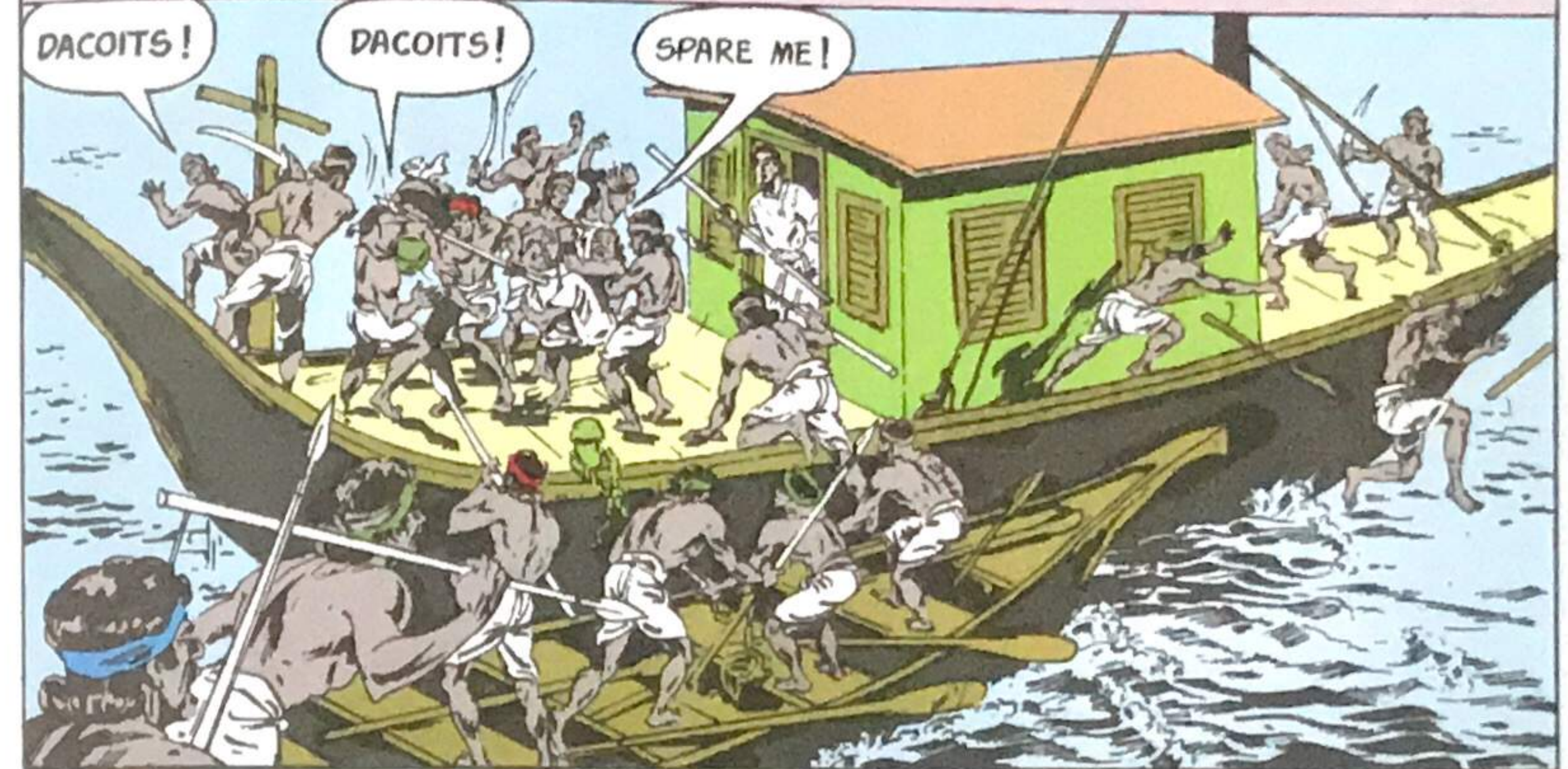
THAT NIGHT, A BARGE WAS ANCHORED ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER TRISROTA.



RANGARAJ CAME TO HIS CANOE AND GAVE ORDERS.



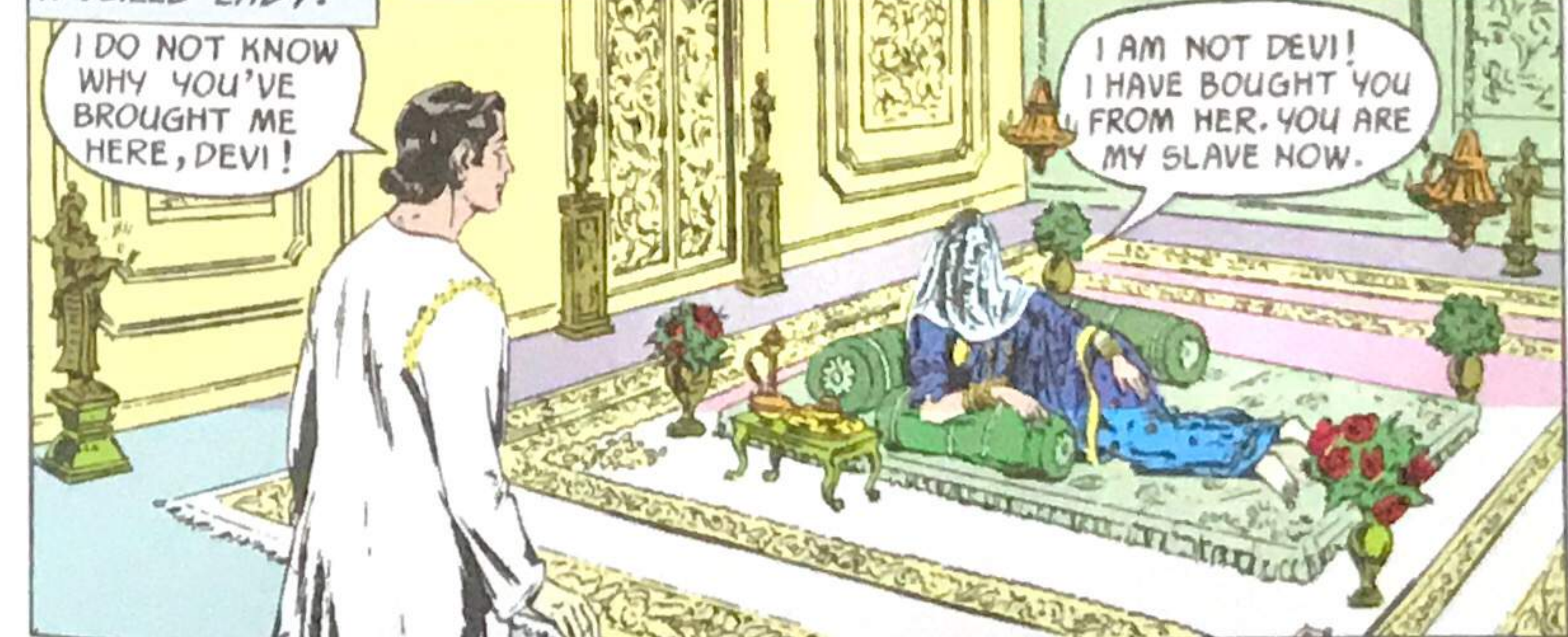
AS SOON AS RANGARAJ'S CANOE CAUGHT UP WITH THE BOAT, HIS MEN JUMPED ONTO IT.



WITHIN A SHORT TIME, THE DACOITS TIED UP ALL THE BOATMEN AND CAUGHT HOLD OF BRAJESHWAR.

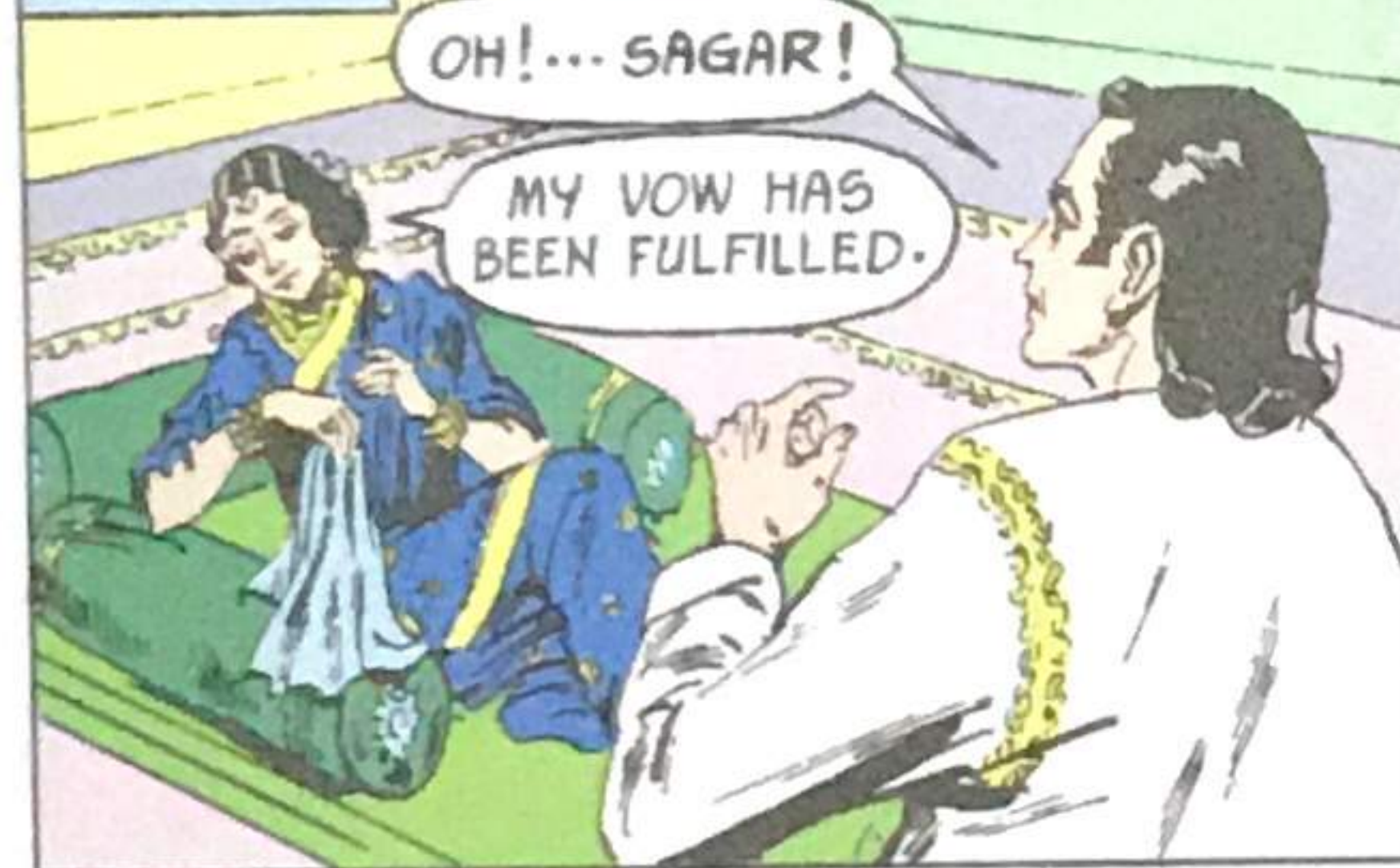


BRAJESHWAR WAS LED TO THE WAITING BARGE WHERE HE WAS LEFT IN FRONT OF A VEILED LADY.

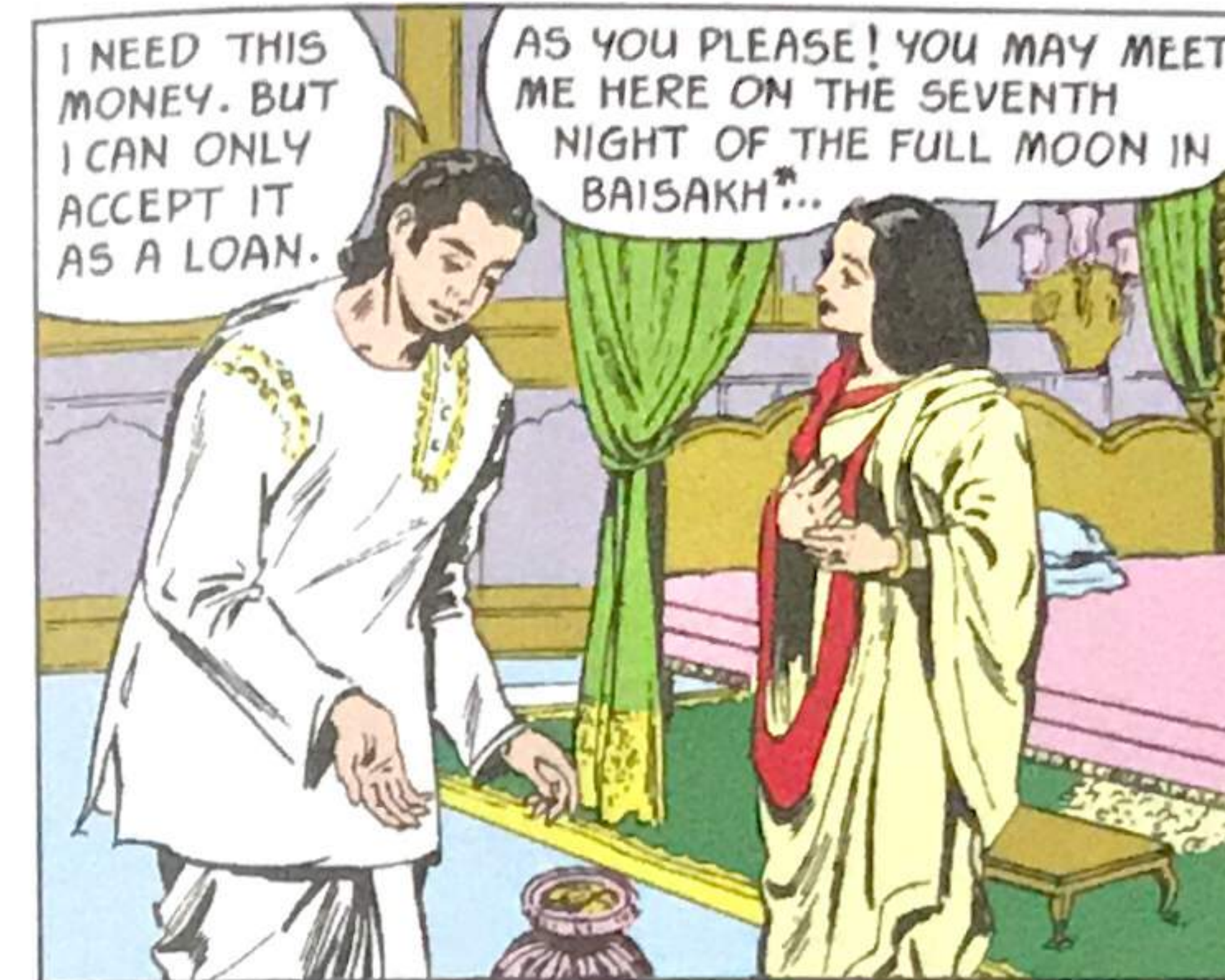




AS SOON AS BRAJESHWAR TOUCHED HER FEET, THE LADY REMOVED HER VEIL WITH A LAUGH.



BRAJESHWAR WAS LED TO DEVI IN ANOTHER CABIN. DEVI GOT UP FROM HER SEAT AND BOWED TO HIM.

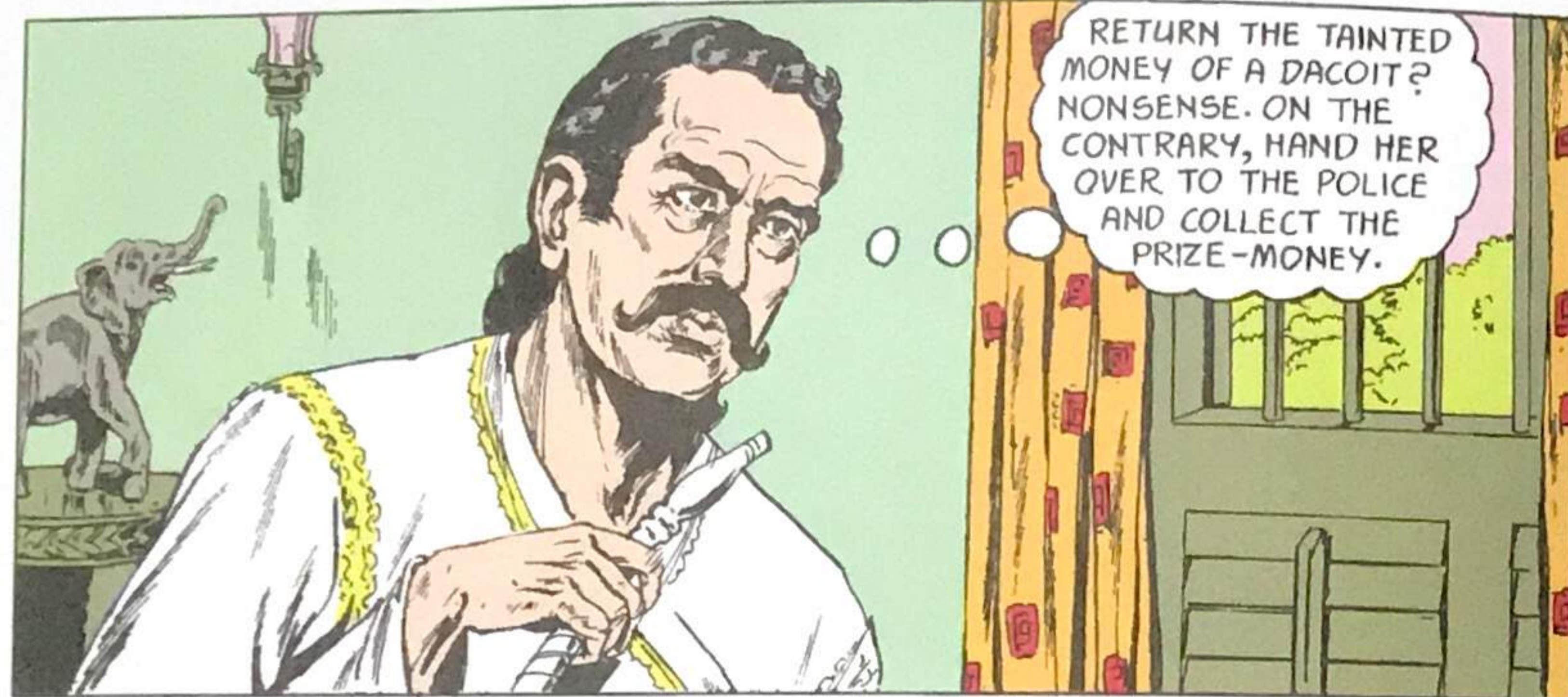


A LITTLE LATER, AS BRAJESHWAR WAS RETURNING HOME WITH SAGAR—



BACK AT HOME, BRAJESHWAR GAVE THE MONEY TO HIS FATHER.





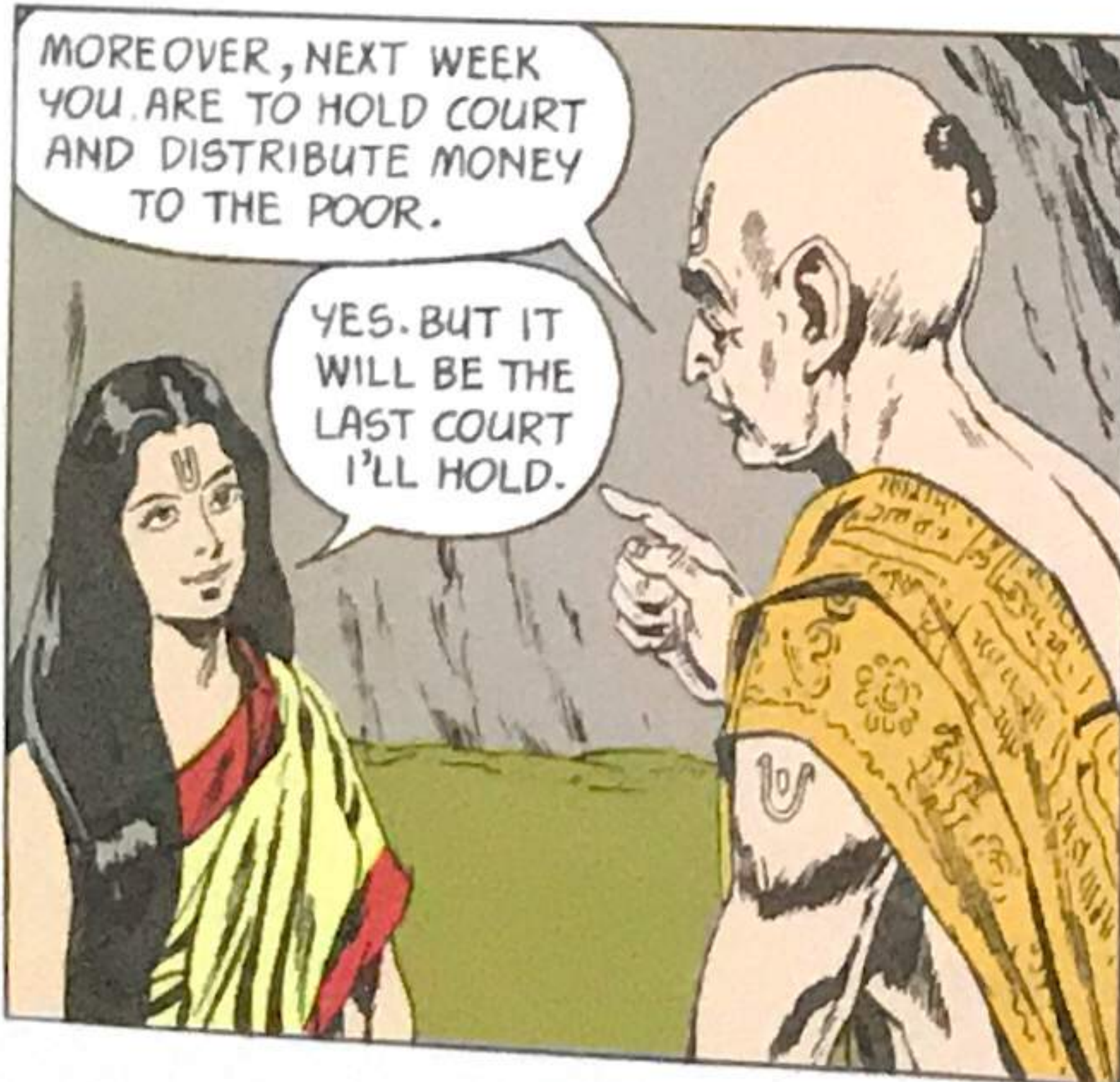
RETURN THE TAINTED MONEY OF A DACOIT? NONSENSE. ON THE CONTRARY, HAND HER OVER TO THE POLICE AND COLLECT THE PRIZE-MONEY.

MEANWHILE, DEVI MET BHAVANI PATHAK.



THAKUR, I AM TIRED OF PLAYING QUEEN! TAKE ALL MY MONEY AND PERMIT ME TO GO BACK TO MY PEOPLE.

PEOPLE REVERE YOU AS A GODDESS. WITHOUT YOU OUR MISSION WOULD FAIL.

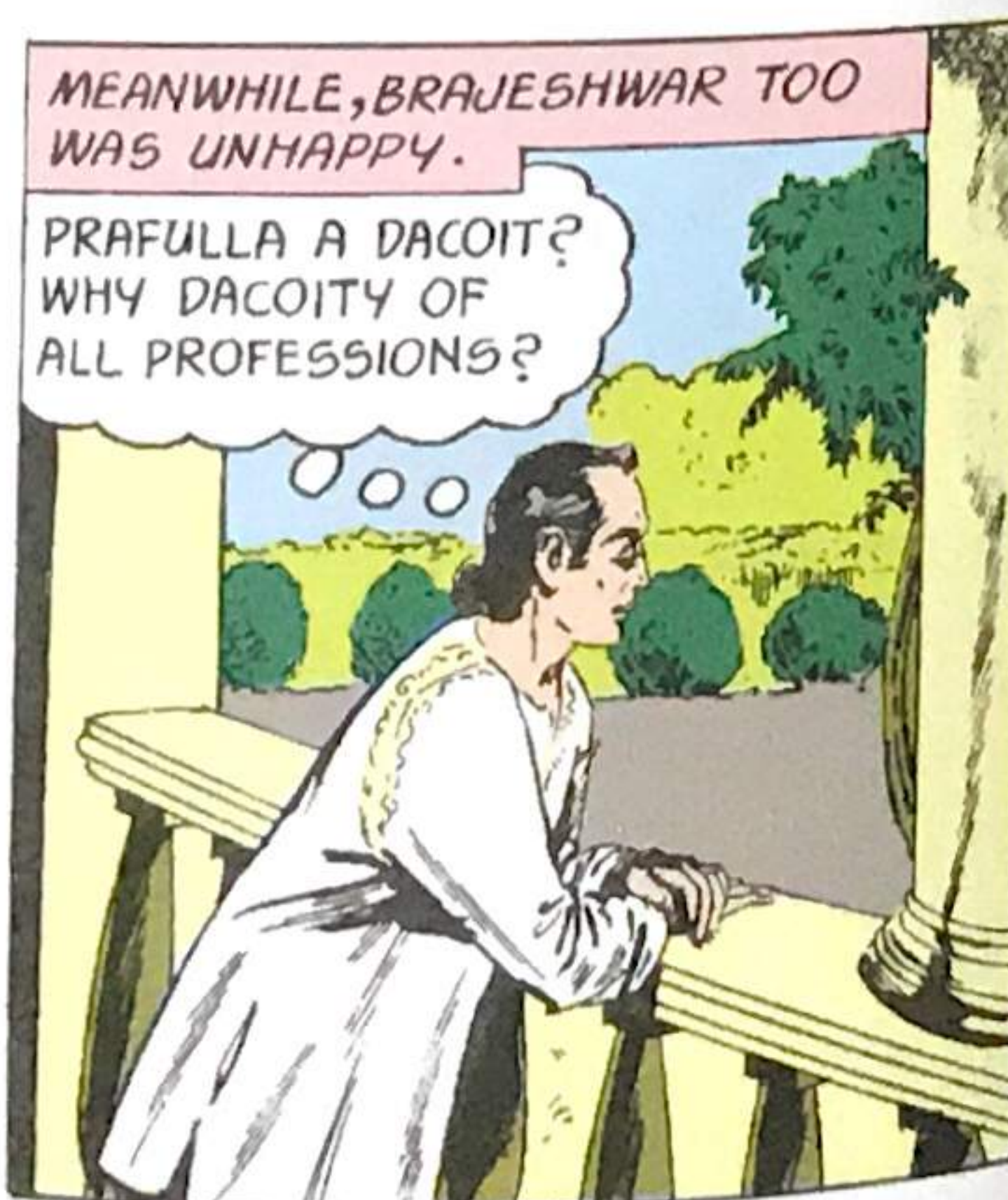


MOREOVER, NEXT WEEK YOU ARE TO HOLD COURT AND DISTRIBUTE MONEY TO THE POOR.

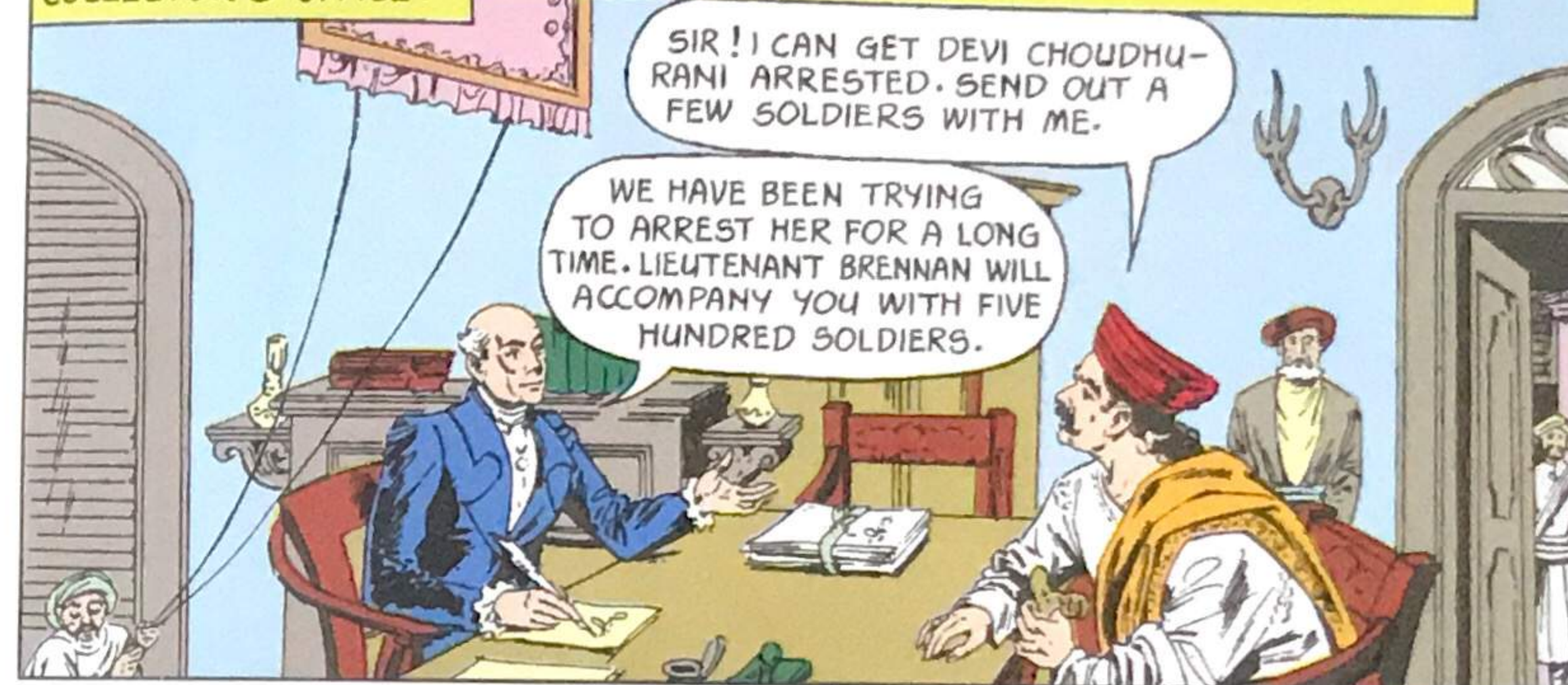
YES. BUT IT WILL BE THE LAST COURT I'LL HOLD.

MEANWHILE, BRAJESHWAR TOO WAS UNHAPPY.

PRAFULLA A DACOIT? WHY DACOITY OF ALL PROFESSIONS?



AS THE MONTH OF BAISAKH DREW NEAR, HARABALLABH WENT TO THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.



SIR! I CAN GET DEVI CHOUDHURANI ARRESTED. SEND OUT A FEW SOLDIERS WITH ME.

WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ARREST HER FOR A LONG TIME. LIEUTENANT BRENNAN WILL ACCOMPANY YOU WITH FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS.

UNAWARE OF HIS FATHER'S MOVE, BRAJESHWAR WENT TO MEET DEVI ON THE APPOINTED DAY.



NOW IS THE TIME TO TELL YOU.

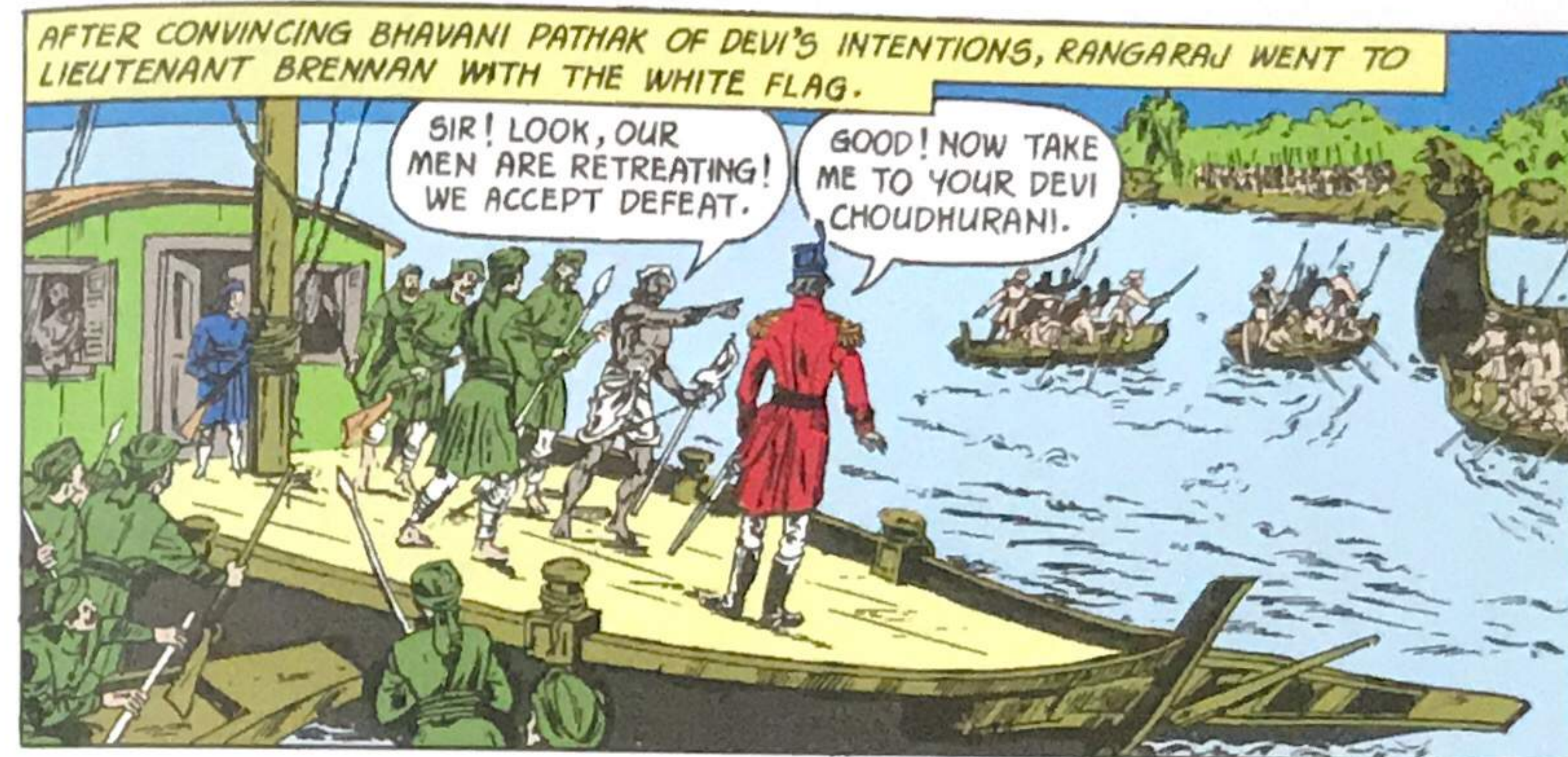
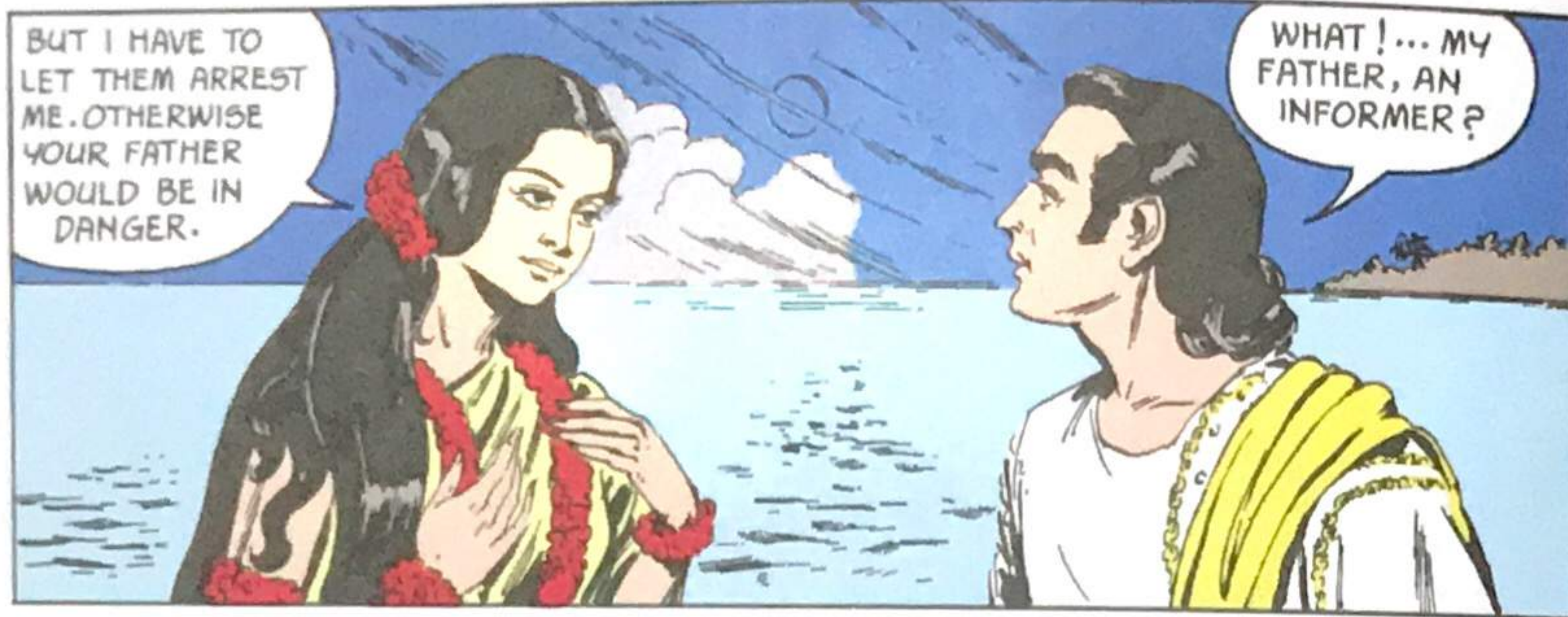
I AM SORRY, I COULD NOT RAISE THE MONEY. BUT PRAFULLA! WHY ARE YOU A DACOIT?

DEVI TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY.

NOW YOU KNOW EVERYTHING. BUT LEAVE THE BARGE IMMEDIATELY. THE BRITISH ARE COMING TO ARREST ME.

THEN I SHOULD BE HERE BY YOUR SIDE.





TO GAIN TIME, THE THREE LADIES WENT ON CONFUSING THE LIEUTENANT.



AS DEVI HAD ANTICIPATED, A VIOLENT STORM SOON BROKE OUT. DEVI'S BOATMEN WERE PREPARED FOR IT. BEFORE ANYONE COULD REALISE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, HER BARGE PIERCED THE CORDON OF ENGLISH BOATS AND WAS SOON OUT OF SIGHT.



INSIDE THE CABIN —

SORRY, LIEUTENANT! YOU ARE OUR CAPTIVE NOW! IF YOU CARE TO LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOW YOU WILL REALISE WHAT I MEAN.



A FEW HOURS LATER NISHI, WHO WAS POSING AS DEVI, TURNED TO HARABALLABH—

WE HAVE DECIDED TO SENTENCE BOTH OF YOU TO DEATH.



I WILL — IF YOU MARRY MY SISTER. SHE IS A SPINSTER.



WELL THEN. YOU GO BACK TO YOUR HOUSE AND ARRANGE A RECEPTION FOR THE COUPLE.



THE NEXT MORNING, THE GALE STOPPED AND THE BARGE WAS ANCHORED. DEVI RELEASED BOTH HER CAPTIVES.



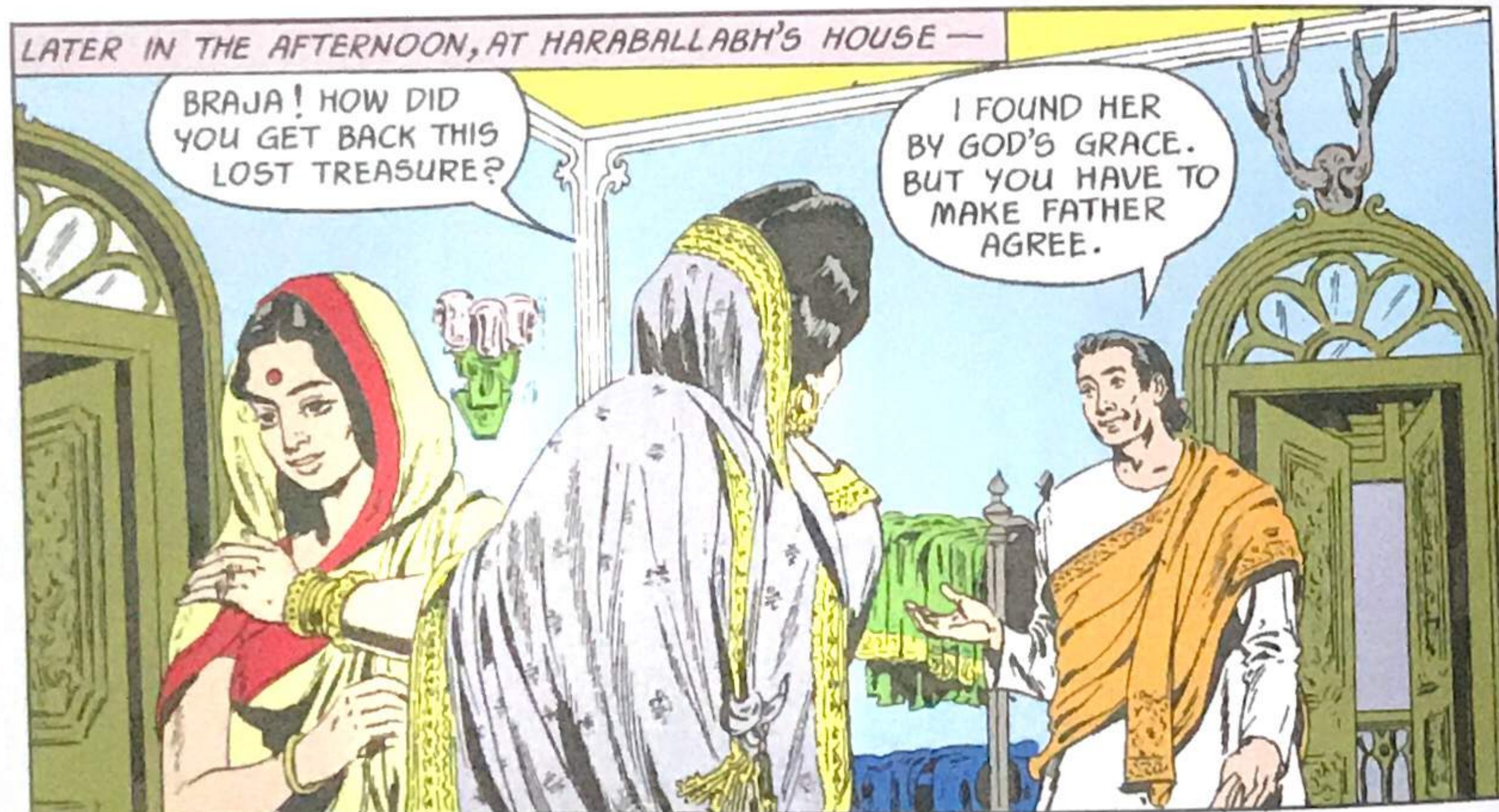
YOU MAY GO NOW, SIR! THE GROOM WILL STAY ON WITH US. THE COUPLE WILL COME TO YOUR HOUSE TOMORROW.



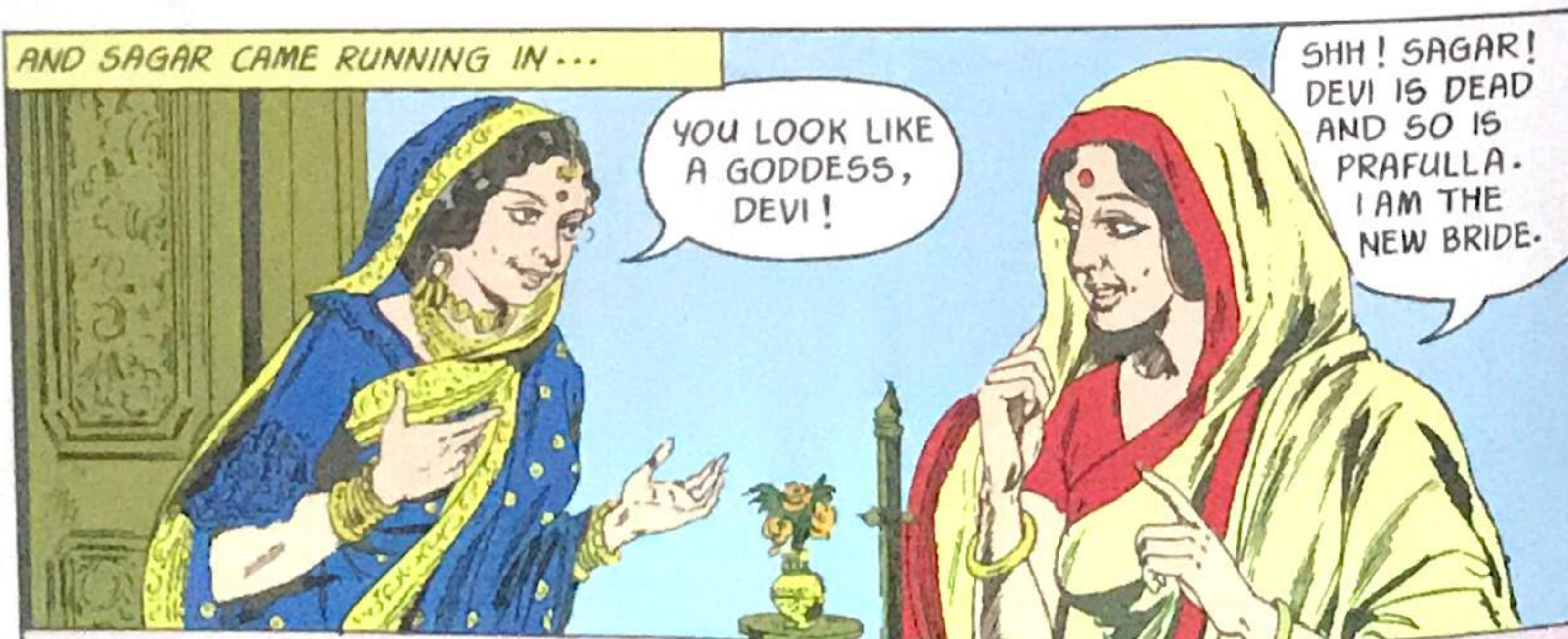
THE NEXT DAY, PRAFULLA AND BRAJESHWAR TOOK LEAVE OF THE OTHERS.



LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, AT HARABALLABH'S HOUSE —



AND SAGAR CAME RUNNING IN...



HER TRAINING IN THE FOREST HELPED PRAFULLA TO BECOME AN IDEAL HOUSEWIFE. EVERYONE, INCLUDING, HARABALLABH DOTTED ON HER. AS FOR BHAVANI PATHAK, HE WAS SO DEJECTED THAT HE SUBMITTED HIMSELF TO THE AUTHORITIES AND WAS DEPORTED.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Anuruddha
Arjuna And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappa
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandraraha
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nala Damayanti
Pareekshit
Parashurama
Prabhavati
Pradyumna
Prahla
Purushottam Dev And
Padmavati
Rama
Ravana Humbled
Saraswati
Sati And Shiva
Savitri
Shiva Parvati
Stories Of Creation
Subhadra
Sudama
Sukanya
Surya
Tales From The
Upanishads
Tales Of Arjuna
Tales Of Balarama
Tales Of Durga
Tales Of Indra
Tales Of Narada

Tales Of Shiva
Tales Of Vishnu
Tales Of Yudhishtira
Tapati
Thanjavur
The Churning Of The
Ocean
The Gita
The Golden Mongoose
The King In
A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
The Syamantaka Gem
Tirupati
Tripura
Uloopi
Vaishno Devi
Vali
Vishwamitra
Yayati

VISIONARIES

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Adi Shankara
Albert Einstein
Anant Pai
Babasaheb Ambedkar
Basaveshwara
Buddha
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
Chanakya
Chokha Mela
Dayananda
Deshbandhu
Chittaranjan Das
Eknath
Fa Hien
Ghanshyamdas Birla
Guru Arjan
Guru Gobind Singh
Guru Har Gobind
Guru Nanak
Guru Tegh Bahadur
Hiuen Tsang
J.R.D. Tata
Jagadis Chandra Bose
Jamsetji Tata
Jawaharlal Nehru
Jayaprakash Narayan
Jim Corbett
Jnaneshwar
Kabir
Kalidasa
Lal Bahadur Shastri
Lokmanya Tilak
M. S. Subbulakshmi
Madhvacharya
Mahavira
Marie And Pierre Curie
Megasthenes
Mirabai
Mother Teresa
Narayan Guru
Rabindranath Tagore
Ram Shastri
Ramana Maharshi
Ramanuja
Salim Ali
Shankar Dev
Soordas
Sri. Ramakrishna
Srinivasa Ramanujan
Subramania Bharati

Swami Chinmayananda
Swami Pranavananda
Tales Of Sai Baba
Tansen
Tulsidas
Vidyasagar
Vivekananda
Zaratushtra

INDIAN CLASSICS

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Ananda Math
Ancestors Of Rama
Devi Choudhurani
Durgesh Nandini
Kadambari
Kannagi
Kapala Kundala
Kumanan
Maarthaanda Varna
Malavika
Manonmani
Prince Jivaka
Raj Singh
Ratnavali
Shakuntala
The Adventures Of
Pratapan
The Elusive Kaka
Udayana
Urvashi
Vasantasena
Vasavadatta
Veer Dhaval

FABLES AND HUMOUR

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

A Bag Of Gold Coins
Amrapali
Andher Nagari
Angulimala
Bikal The Terrible
BIRBAL STORIES

Birbal The Clever
Birbal The Genius
Birbal The Just
Birbal The Wise
Birbal The Witty
Birbal To The Rescue
The Inimitable Birbal
Chandralal
Dhola And Maru
Friends And Foes
Gopal And The Cowherd
Gopal The Jester
HITOPADESHA TALES
Choice Of Friends
How Friends Are Parted
Hothal
JATAKA TALES
Battle Of Wits
Bird Stories
Deer Stories
Elephant Stories
Jackal Stories
Monkey Stories
Nandi Vishala
Stories Of Courage
Stories Of Wisdom
Tales Of Misers
The Deadly Feast
The Giant And
The Dwarf
The Hidden Treasure
The Magic Chant

The Mouse Merchant
True Friends
Kanwal And Kehar
Kesari The Flying Thief
King Kusha
Manduka

PANCHATANTRA TALES

Crows And Owls
How The Jackal Ate
The Elephant
The Brahmin And
The Goat
The Dullard
The Greedy Mother-in-law
The Jackal And
The Wardrum
Raman Of Tenali
Raman The Matchless Wit
Sahasramalla
Sakshi Gopal
Satwant Kaur
Sharan Kaur
Shrenik
Sukhu And Dukhu
Sundari
Tales Of Maryada Rama
The Acrobat
The Adventures
Of Agad Datta
The Adventures Of
Baddu And Chhotu
The Bridegroom's Ring
The Celestial Necklace
The Clever Dancer
The Cowherd Of Alawi
The Fearless Boy
The Fool's Disciples
The Golden Sand
The Green Demon
The Unhappy Tiger
The Learned Pandit
The Lost Prince
The Magic Grove
The Miraculous Conch
The Mystery Of
The Missing Gift
The Pandit And The
Milkmaid
The Pig And The Dog
The Pious Cat
The Priceless Gem
The Prince And
The Magician
The Prophecy
The Queen's Necklace
The Rainbow Prince
The Secret Of The
Talking Bird
The Silent Teacher
The Tiger And The
Woodpecker
The Tiger Eater
Thugsen
Vidyut Chora
Vikramaditya's Throne

BRAVEHEARTS

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

A Nation Awakes
Anilyabai Holkar
Ajatashatru
Akbar
Amar Singh Rathor
Ashoka
Babur
Bagha Jatin
Bajirao I

Baladitya And
Yashodharma
Balban
Banda Bahadur
Bappa Rawal
Beni Madho And Pir Ali
Bhagat Singh
Bidhi Chand
Bimbisara
Chand Bibi
Chandra Shekhar Azad
Chandragupta Maurya
Chennamma Of Keladi
Dara Shukho And
Aurangzeb

Durgadas
Ellora Caves
Hakka And Bukka
Hari Singh Nalwa
Harsha
Hemu
Humayun
Jahangir
Jallianwala Bagh
Kalpana Chawla
Kochunni
Krishnadeva Raya
Kunwar Singh
Lachit Barphukan
Lalitaditya
Mangal Pande
Noor Jahan
Padmini
Panna And Hadi Rani
Paurava And Alexander
Prithviraj Chauhan
Raja Bhoja
Raja Raja Chola
Rana Kumbha
Rana Pratap
Rana Sanga
Rani Abbakka
Rani Durgavati
Rani Of Jhansi
Ranjit Singh
Rash Bihari Bose
Roopmati
Sambhaji
Samudra Gupta
Sea Route To India
Shah Jahan
Shalivahana
Shantala
Sher Shah
Shivaji
Subhas Chandra Bose
Sultana Razia
Surjya Sen
Tachcholi Othenan
Tales Of Shivaji
Tanaji
Tenzing Norgay
The Historic City Of Delhi
The Rani Of Kittur
Tipu Sultan
Veer Hamir
Veer Savarkar
Velu Thampi
Vikramaditya

CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS

(New Category)
The best of modern Indian literature

The Blue Umbrella



Titles available in English and other Regional languages on www.amarchitrakatha.com